Crescent Moon

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Volume 2

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Crescent Moon Vol. 2

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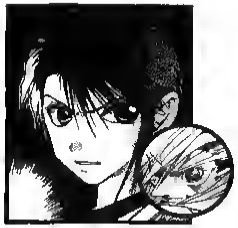
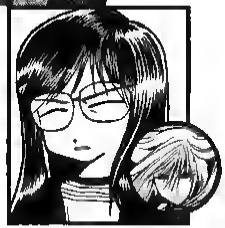


MITSURU SUOU:
A TENGU. DUE TO HIS COMPLICATED UPBRINGING, MITSURU NOT ONLY HATES AND BEGRUDGES THE HUMAN RACE, BUT DISTRUSTS THE LUNAR ONE AS WELL.

MAHIRU SHIRAISHI:
A JUNIOR IN HIGH SCHOOL. MAHIRU POSSESS THE ABILITY TO AWAKEN AND DRAW OUT THE HIDDEN POWERS OF THE "LUNAR RACE."

NOZOMU MOEGI:
A VAMPIRE. DESPITE HIS BLONDE HAIR AND BLUE EYES, HE SPEAKS WITH A KANSAI DIALECT. HE'S A SMOOTH TALKER AND LOVES THE LADIES.

AKIRA YAMABUKI:
A WEREWOLF. A HAPPY-GO-LUCKY CHARACTER, AKIRA LOATHES DWELLING ON ANYTHING SERIOUS OR DEEP FOR TOO LONG. HE'S ALSO AN EXCELLENT CHEF.



MISOKA ASAGI:
A FOX DEMON. COOL, CALM, COLLECTED AND TACIT, MISOKA ACTS INSTINCTIVELY AND IS RESPECTED AS THE UNSPOKEN LEADER.

OBORO KUROSAKI:
OWNER OF THE BAR, "MOONSHINE."

KATSURA SHION:
PIANIST FOR THE BAR, "MOONSHINE."

KIMITERU KUSAKABE:
A POLICE INSPECTOR INVESTIGATING THE "MOONLIGHT BANDITS."

YOUHEI NISHINO:
DETECTIVE KUSAKABE'S SUBORDINATE. HE IS A POLICE SERGEANT.

The Story So Far...

AFTER SHE LOST HER PARENTS IN A CAR ACCIDENT WHILE STILL JUST A KID, HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR MAHIRU HAD AMAZING DREAMS AND VISIONS OF A DEMON YOUTH AND A PRINCESS ADORNED IN CEREMONIAL AND COURTLY GARB. ADDING TO MAHIRU'S QUESTIONS ABOUT HER RECURING VISIONS WERE RUMORS STARTED BY THE SWIMMING CLUB SHE BELONGS TO. THEY BELIEVED THAT TOUCHING MAHIRU WOULD BRING GOOD LUCK.

AS MAHIRU STRUGGLED WITH HER IDENTITY, SHE WAS SUDDENLY APPROACHED BY FOUR MYSTERIOUS YOUTHS NAMED MITSURU, NOZOMU, AKIRA AND MISOKA. THEY CLAIMED HER TO BE THE "DESCENDENT OF THE PRINCESS," AND THEIR ONLY HOPE FOR RECLAIMING THE GEMS NAMED "THE TEARDROPS OF THE MOON" WHICH WERE STOLEN BY HUMANS OVER 1000 YEARS AGO.

THESE YOUTHS WERE NOT HUMANS BUT MEMBERS OF A "MONSTROUS" RACE NAMED THE PEOPLE OF THE MOON, WHO, WHILE IN TOKYO, HAD FORMED A BAND OF THIEVES KNOWN AS THE MOONLIGHT BANDITS. FROM THESE YOUTHS, MAHIRU LEARNED SHE IS THE DESCENDENT OF THE MINISTER OF THE LEFT'S PRINCESS, WHOSE ANCESTORS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR STEALING THE TEARDROPS OF THE MOON SO MANY YEARS AGO. IT IS ALSO BECAUSE OF THIS HERITAGE THAT MAHIRU POSSESSES THE ABILITY TO DRAW OUT THE HIDDEN ABILITIES AND POWERS OF THE "LUNAR RACE."

ALTHOUGH AT FIRST, MAHIRU FEARED THE MOONLIGHT BANDITS AND WANTED NOTHING TO DO WITH THEM, SHE WAS TOUCHED BY NOZOMU AND HIS GANG'S KINDNESS. SINCE SHE ALSO WANTED TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HER ABILITIES AND DREAMS, MAHIRU DECIDED TO AID THE CREATURES IN THEIR ENDEAVORS.

AS SHE SLOWLY CAME TO UNDERSTAND THE BANDITS, ONLY MITSURU, BECAUSE OF HIS DEEP DISTRUST OF HUMANS, REFUSED TO ACCEPT MAHIRU AS A FRIEND RATHER THAN FOE. UNDAUNTED, MAHIRU WISHES TO SOMEHOW BEFRIEND MITSURU AND WORK WITH HIM BUT

HNNN
—SLEEPING THE ENTIRE DAY? WAKE UP AND BUST A MOVE
MAHIRU!! BREAKFAST IS READY! YOU PLANNING ON—
NNNN... NNNNN. TODAY'S THE DAY...
TODAY'S FINALLY MOVING DAY!!
ぽん
ZZZZZZ

Crescent Moon

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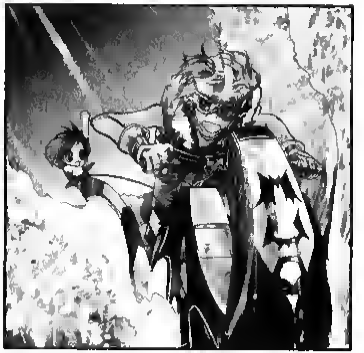
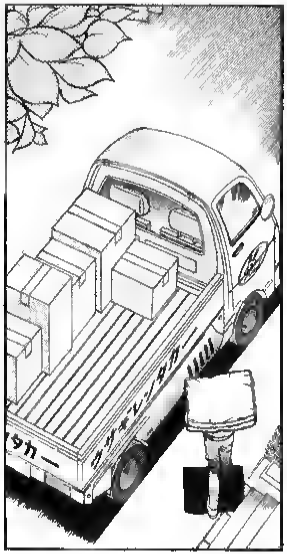
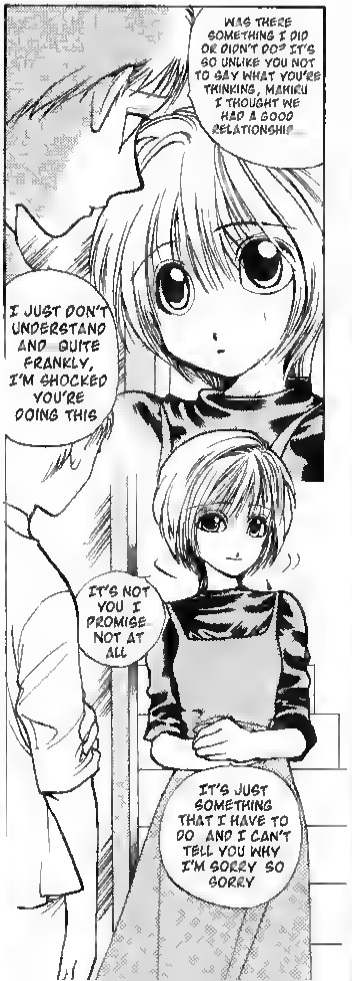
The Descendant of the Princess Meets the Demons
Part 3.

HOLY COW!! THERE'S MORE?!
YUP.
JUST A BIT THOUGH
DEAL WITH IT
BUT I'M SO HUNGRY
PUT YOUR EARS AND TAIL AWAY YOU NEED TO STOP TRANSFORMING IN FRONT OF HUMANS LIKE THAT
SARAH!
AWW~ COME ON, MIGOKA I'M SO-O-O-O HUNGRY~

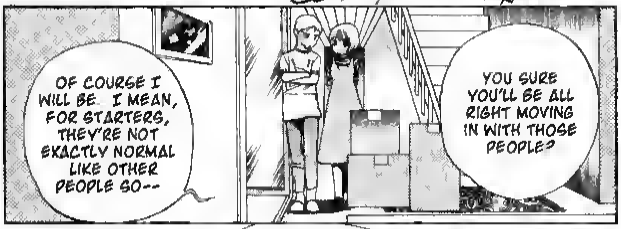


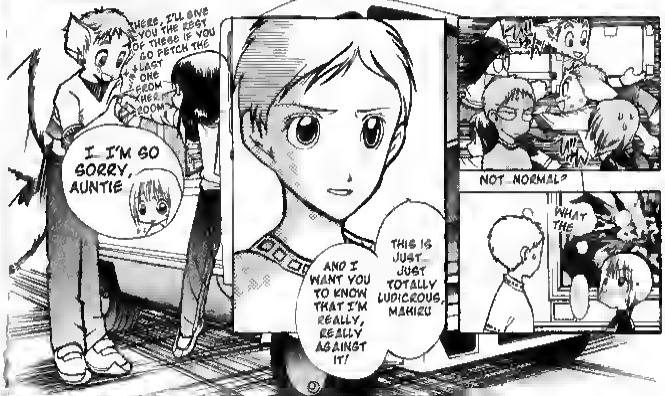


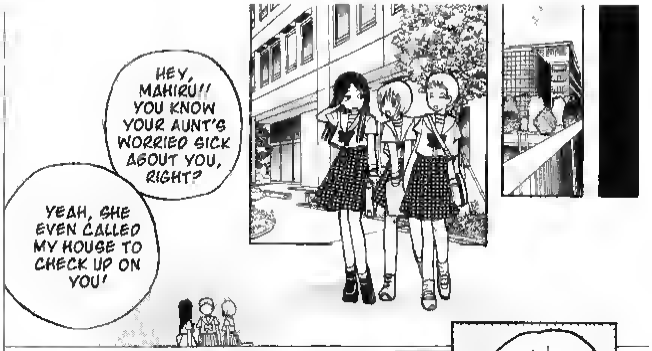
MUNCH


WAS THERE SOMETHING I DID OR DIDN'T DO? IT'S SO UNLIKE YOU NOT TO SAY WHAT YOU'RE THINKING, MARIKO. I THOUGHT WE HAD A GOOD RELATIONSHIP!
I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND AND QUITE FRANKLY, I'M SHOCKED YOU'RE DOING THIS
IT'S NOT YOU I PROMISE NOT AT ALL
IT'S JUST SOMETHING THAT I HAVE TO DO AND I CAN'T TELL YOU WHY I'M SORRY SO SORRY

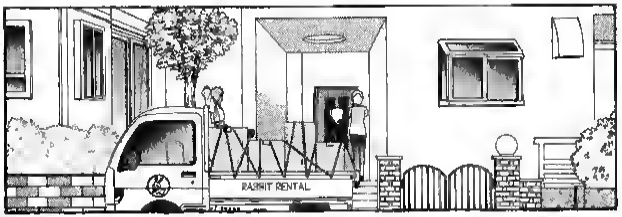
HEH HEH HEH. WAS THAT YOUR SOPHISTICATED AUNTIE? WHEN ARE YOU GUYS GONNA GET MARRIED HUH?
AWESOME ATTEMPT AT AVOIDING THE SUBJECT-- BUT LET'S TALK ABOUT YOU FOR A SECOND
YES, I'M REALLY SORRY
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY RIGHT NOW
UH OH, SHE'S COMING I'LL CALL YOU BACK LATER, OKAY?
SO SOON!

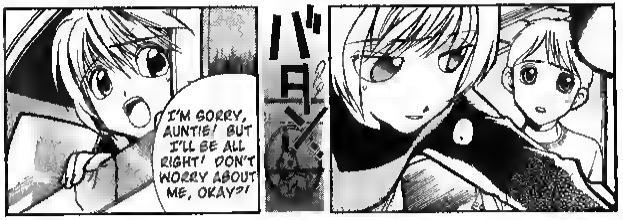

OF COURSE I WILL BE. I MEAN, FOR STARTERS, THEY'RE NOT EXACTLY NORMAL LIKE OTHER PEOPLE SO--
YOU SURE YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT MOVING IN WITH THOSE PEOPLE?


THERE, I'LL GIVE YOU THE REST OF THESE IF YOU GO FETCH THE LAST ONE FROM THE ROOM
I... I'M SO SORRY, AUNTIE
AND I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I'M REALLY, REALLY AGAINST IT!
THIS IS JUST JUST TOTALLY LUDICROUS, MARIKO
NOT NORMAL?
WHAT THE


HEY, MAHIRU!! YOU KNOW YOUR AUNT'S WORRIED SICK ABOUT YOU, RIGHT?
YEAH, SHE EVEN CALLED MY HOUSE TO CHECK UP ON YOU!

AFTER I LOST MY PARENTS IN A CAR ACCIDENT...
WELL, I HAD THE GREAT FORTUNE OF HAVING A WONDERFUL AUNT WHO TOOK CARE OF ME AND RAISED ME JUST LIKE I WAS HER OWN KID.
SHE ASKED ME TO MOVE IN WITH HER, AND WE LIVED TOGETHER JUST THE TWO OF US.
REALLY?
THIS IS SO TOUGH! I HAD...
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN SHE'D BE WORRIED!


RABBIT RENTAL


I'M SORRY, AUNTIE! BUT I'LL BE ALL RIGHT! DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, OKAY?!
ハル

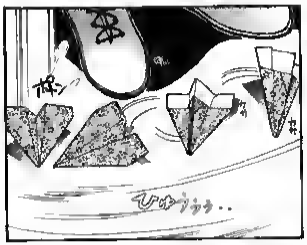
BUMP...
BUMP...
BUMP...
I'LL CALL WITH THE ADDRESS LATER, OKAY, AUNTIE?!

HEY, MITSURU!! WAIT UP!!
CAME TO PICK UP MAHIRU AS OKOKO REQUESTED
PICK HER UP FOR HER OFF WHATEVER!!
WHY THE HECK DO I HAVE TO, DO THIS EVERY FRIGGIN' DAY?

PANT PANT
GOSH, HE WALKS SO DARN FAST
PANT PANT PANT
I WONDER HOW MUCH FARTHER HE'S GOING
PANT PANT

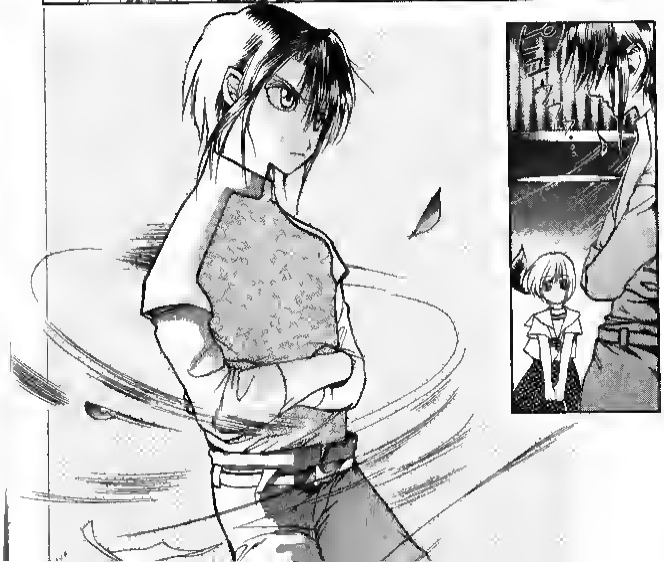
KYAAHH!!

MITSURU...
HUH?



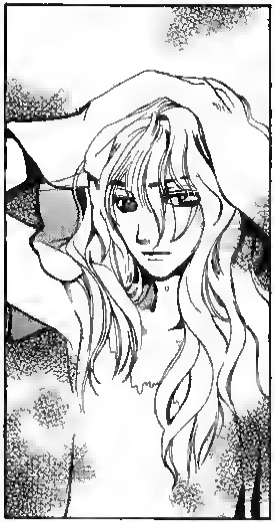
I HAVE TO MAKE SURE I CALL HER EVERY DAY AND TELL HER HOW I'M DOING AND...

HUH? HEY, YOU'RE RIGHT. THERE'S NOT EVEN A BREEZE...
BUT WHERE IN THE WORLD DID IT COME FROM?
OOH, A PAPER PLANE?



AAHHH!
I'M SCARED, MITSURU! I MEAN, HONESTLY, I'M TOTALLY FREAKED! DO YOU THINK YOU COULD FLY A BIT LOWER? PLEASE?
WELL, IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, THEN WHY DON'T YOU GO BACK TO THAT WOMAN! GRRR. AND DON'T TALK TO ME!!
BUT I BETTER GET USED TO HIM. AND QUICK
AFTER ALL, I HAVE NO CHOICE IF I'M GONNA LIVE WITH THESE PEOPLE FROM NOW ON
RRGGHHH
URR----GHHH
THIS IS THE WORLD I SEE WITH MY EYES IN THE WATER
OH NO HE STILL SCARES THE HECK OUT OF ME
DAMN IT.

Hppp
!

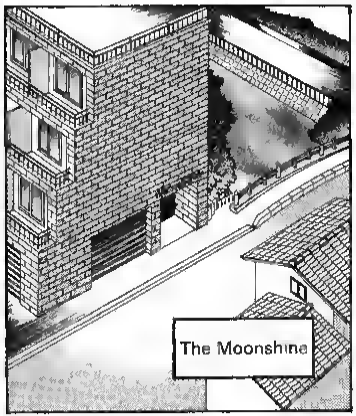


COUGH

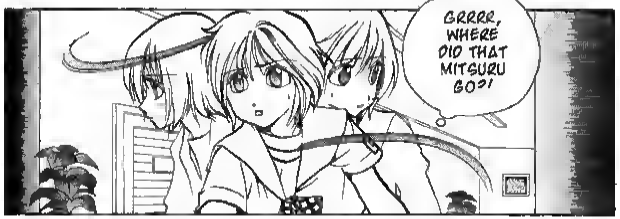
COUGH
COUGH

VOKUN
DEEP BREATHS I MEAN, AFTER ALL, ALL I HAVE TO DO IS TAKE THIS GIRL BACK WITH ME
DAMN IT, I HAVE TO CALM DOWN IT'S OKAY
Uhm
VOKUN
VOKUN
VOKUN

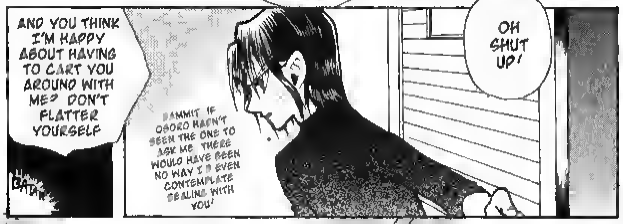
WHAT IN THE WORLD AM I DOING HERE? WHY AM I DOING ALL THESE THINGS I'M TERRIFIED OF? AND AHH, MITSURU WHY ARE YOU BEING SO DOWNRIGHT NASTY?!
AHH, I'M SO SCARED OF MITSURU BUT I'M SCARED OF FLYING TOO


The Moonshine

.....
SO, HAVE YOU FOUND YOUR NEXT TARGET, YET?
OH YEAH? SO A TEARDROP OF THE MOON IS GOING TO BE THERE, HUH?
HOW NICE
YES! IN A FEW DAYS AT THE SHINJUKU MUSEUM OF MODERN ART, THEY'RE HOLDING A SPECIAL EXHIBITION ABOUT THE MOON. ONE OF THE EXHIBITION PIECES IS OUR TARGET
ACTUALLY, WE WERE THINKING OF HOLDING A WELCOME PARTY FOR HER TODAY
GOOD, GOOD. SHE JUST MOVED IN WITH US A FEW DAYS AGO
OH, AND BY THE WAY, HOW'S OUR "DESCENDANT OF THE PRINCESS" DOING?


GRRRR, WHERE DID THAT MITSURU GO?!

YOU ARE SO TOTALLY MEAN! HOW COULD YOU KEEP DOING THAT WHEN I ASKED YOU TO STOP?!
I MEAN, SURE, I MIGHT HAVE BEEN MEAN TO YOU THAT ONE TIME, BUT STILL!!

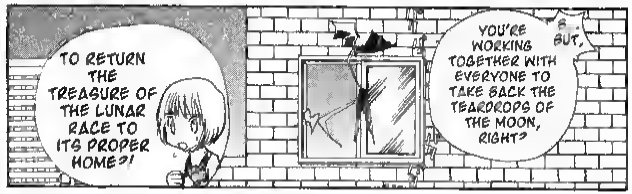

AND YOU THINK I'M HAPPY ABOUT HAVING TO CART YOU AROUND WITH ME? DON'T FLATTER YOURSELF
DAMMIT, IF OSORO HADN'T BEEN THE ONE TO ASK ME, THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO WAY I'D EVEN CONTEMPLATE DEALING WITH YOU!
OH SHUT UP!

?
?
I BETTER FIND MITSURU AND STRAIGHTEN THIS OUT NOW!!

SIRE,
EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE I PROMISE WE MERELY PASSED EACH OTHER IN THE HALL QUITE HONESTLY I DIDN'T EVEN ACKNOWLEDGE HER
SO, HONESTLY, I'M DOUBTFUL SHE COULD SUSPECT THAT SOMEHOW WE'RE THE SAME PERSON
AND REALLY, IT'S JUST EASIER FOR ME TO INTERACT WITH HER WHEN I'M A WOMAN
SINCE THE PRINCESS ONLY KNOWS YOU AS A WOMAN— —I'D KINDA HOPED WE COULD KEEP IT THAT WAY FOR A LITTLE LONGER AT LEAST, BUT—
HMM, I SEE
THE SHINJUKU MUSEUM OF MODERN ART I'LL BE HAPPY TO GO OVER THE DETAILS WITH YOU LATER
HERE'S THE DATA ON THE MUSEUM AS PROMISED
SO. . YOU COUNTED ME AS A WOMAN, HUH?
TAKE CARE OF THE PRINCESS FOR ME, KATSURA
ﾌﾌﾌ

PATAN
IT'S KATSURA, SIR
AHH, SO WE'VE BEEN REDUCED TO AN ALL MALE HOUSEHOLD NOW, HAVE WE?
I APOLOGIZE FOR THAT. I JUST RAN INTO THE PRINCESS OUTSIDE.
UMM, BE VERY DIFFERENT OF YOU OR HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN SINCE YOU'VE BEEN HERE
HOW THE MAJORITY OF THE LUNAR RACE DESPISES HER
HA! A WELCOME PARTY? HA HA HA HA
スゥ
CAW CAW
CAW CAW

...OR ANY OF THEM SUFFICE IT TO SAY THAT I DON'T CONSIDER ANY OF YOU GUYS A "FRIEND."
AND AS FOR YOU
I'M SORRY--
THE ONLY REASON I'M HERE IS TO FOLLOW OBORO'S ORDERS AND RECLAIM THE TEARDROPS OF THE MOON.


TO RETURN THE TREASURE OF THE LUNAR RACE TO ITS PROPER HOME?!
BUT, YOU'RE WORKING TOGETHER WITH EVERYONE TO TAKE BACK THE TEARDROPS OF THE MOON, RIGHT?

AND, BY THE WAY, DON'T EVER COME ANY CLOSER TO ME THAN THAT. IN FACT, STAY THE HELL AWAY IF YOU CAN HELP IT--THAT'S THE ONLY RULE YOU'LL NEED TO REMEMBER TO MAKE YOUR STAY WITH US HERE PLEASANT

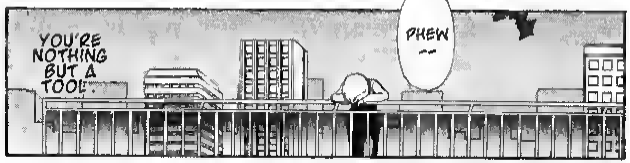
THE ONLY THING I CARE ABOUT IS BECOMING STRONGER
I'M TOLD THAT BRINGING THAT DAMN ARTIFACT BACK WILL AWARD ME WITH SUCH POWER--SUCH STRENGTH
MEANWHILE YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A TOOL. A MERE TOOL FOR ME TO OBTAIN WHAT I WANT.

HAVE YOU

DON'T COME ANY CLOSER
IT'S WRITTEN ON YOUR FACE, YOU KNOW.
YOU'RE THINKING, "I DON'T REALLY WANT TO BE HERE," AND "HOW CAN I POSSIBLY TRUST A GROUP OF TOTAL STRANGERS?" AM I WRONG?

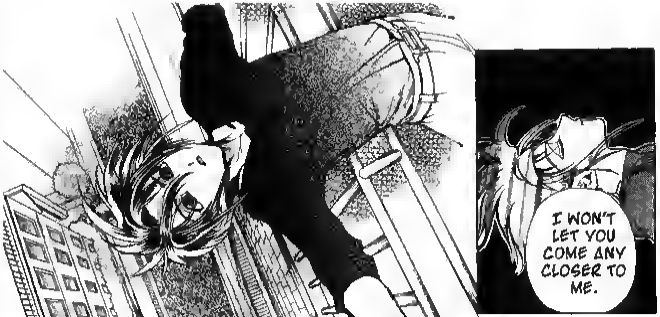
I WAS NEVER GIVEN THAT CHOICE

H...HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?
BUT THEN AGAIN, I JUST LEFT MY ONE AND ONLY FAMILY MEMBER TO BE HERE, SO
I MEAN, SURE, I'M A LITTLE UNCOM-FORTABLE

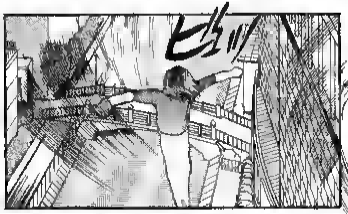

YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A TOOL.
PHEW ~~

I...I'M JUST A TOOL.
OHHH HOW COULD HE SAY THAT TO ME?
MAHIRU-CHAN?

WAS THAT YOU WHO CALLED MY NAME JUST NOW, BATTY OL' ?
OH, WELL, HI THERE, NOZOMU'S BAT
MAHIRU!
NOPE, IT'S JUST GOOD OL' ME


I WON'T LET YOU COME ANY CLOSER TO ME.

MITSURU!!



KYAAHHHH!!
MITSURU? MITSURU?!

PHEW

AWWW HE'S SO CUTE
DASH!
WELL, OKAY.
THANK YOU SO MUCH, NOZOMU.
NO PROBLEM
YEAH, I SHOULD GET SOME SLEEP
Z
Z
Z

IT LOOKS TO ME LIKE MITSURU'S GONE AND SAID SOMETHING STUPID TO YOU AGAIN. BUT DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT IT, OKAY?
JUST GET SOME SLEEP AND FORGET ABOUT IT. TAKE IT EASY, WILL YA?
.....

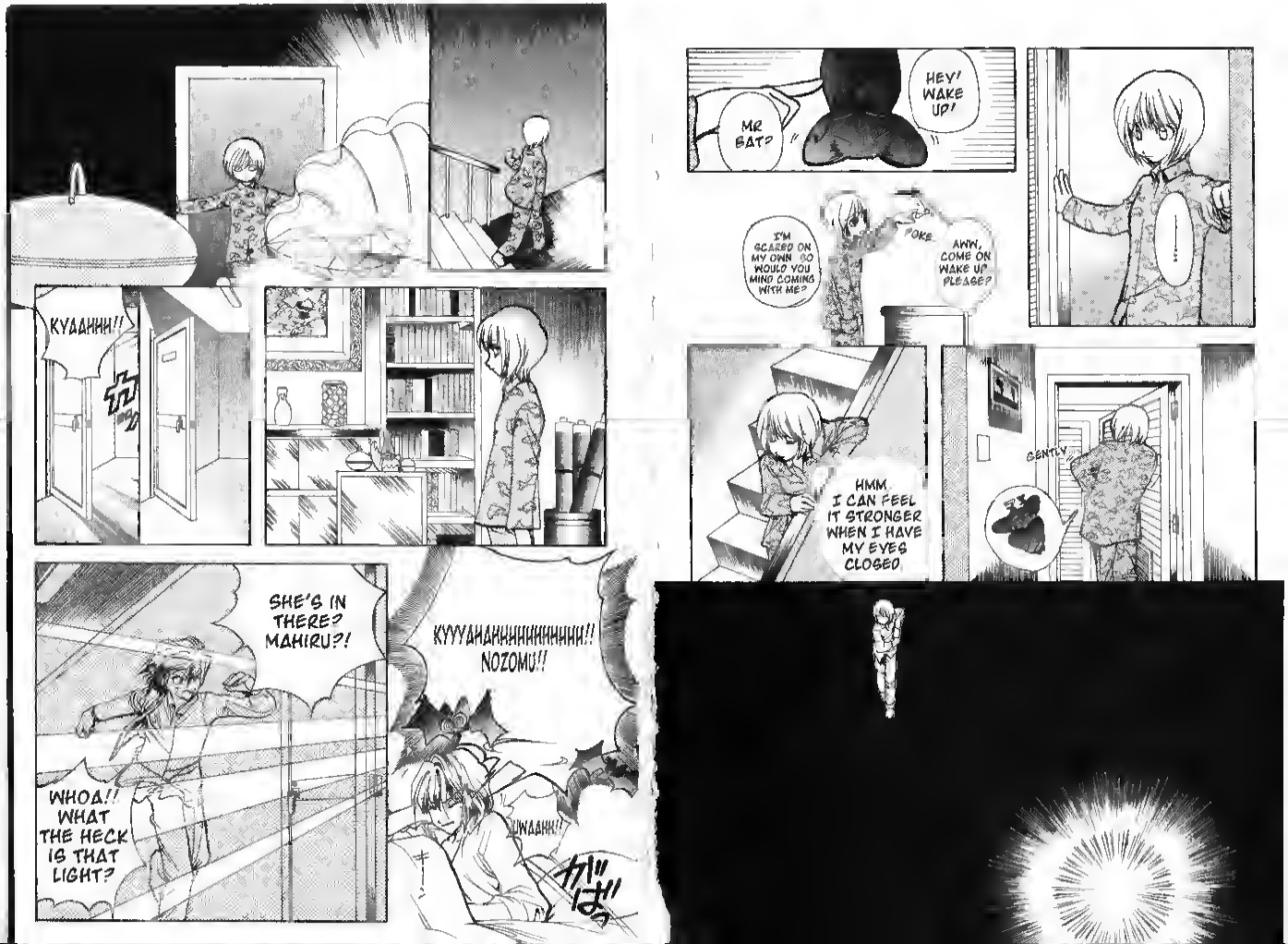
AND, BY THE WAY, THIS LITTLE GUY'S FOR YOU TO KEEP.
IF YOU EVER NEED ANYTHING, GO RIGHT AHEAD AND YELL FOR ME THROUGH HIM.
AND NO MATTER WHERE I AM I'LL COME FLYING TO YOU UNDERSTOOD?

YOU TRANSFORMED INTO...INTO A BAT?
NOPE, NOPE.

HOT...
OKAY, HERE COMES THE ORDER. ONE GAZUO AND CASSIS.
..HOPEFULLY THIS LITTLE GUY WILL DO.
IT'S A BIT BUSY HERE SO I CAN'T COME SEE YOU MYSELF BUT...

WHEW
IT WAS JUST A DREAM
NNNNN
HUH? WHAT IS IT? SOMETHING SHINING...?
THERE'S NO ONE IN THE HALLWAY
W WHAT IS THIS SHINING FROM DEEP INSIDE ALL THE WAY TO THE BACK OF MY EYES...
WHY------- WH WHAT IS IT THIS TIME?

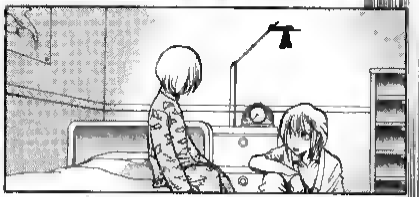
HAH?!
KYAAAHHHH!!
SPLOOP
SPAT
SPAT


KYAAHHH!!
SHE'S IN THERE? MAHIRU?!
WHOA!! WHAT THE HECK IS THAT LIGHT?
KYYYAHAHHHHHHHHHHH!! NOZOMU!!
UWAAH!!
MR BAT?
HEY! WAKE UP!
I'M SCARED ON MY OWN SO WOULD YOU MIND COMING WITH ME?
POKE
AWW, COME ON WAKE UP PLEASE?
HMM. I CAN FEEL IT STRONGER WHEN I HAVE MY EYES CLOSED
GENTLY

SLEEPIN' ON DA JOB WEREN'T YA, YOU DOLT!!

WHAT THE-OH MY! SHE SHE'S GLOWING?!

SO YOU COULD SLEEP AT NIGHT
WELL, YEAH YOU DID TEACH ME THAT WAY

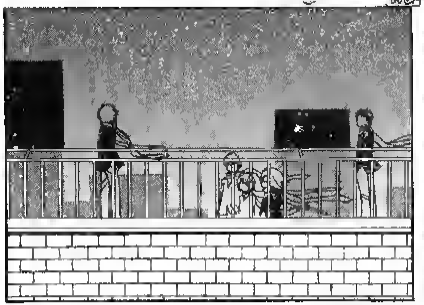


I SEE SO THE LIGHT FROM THE TEARDROP OF THE MOON WAS CALLING YOU...?
IT KEPT GETTING BRIGHTER AND BRIGHTER, STRONGER AND STRONGER WITHIN I DON'T EVEN HAVE TO CLOSE MY EYES ANYMORE TO SEE OR FEEL IT NOW

MAHIRU!!
NOZOMU!
NOZOMU!!
MY BODY!!
WHA-?!

DON'T WORRY, SWEETIE! NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, I'LL ALWAYS BE ON YOUR SIDE!
LOOK
IT'S LATE, MAHIRU WHY DON'T YOU TRY AND GET SOME MORE REST ♥
I'LL HEAD BACK TO MY ROOM NOW, TOO
'KAY?
THAT'S A GOOD GIRL
OKAY

AN UNFINISHED LOVE
JUST KIDDING!!



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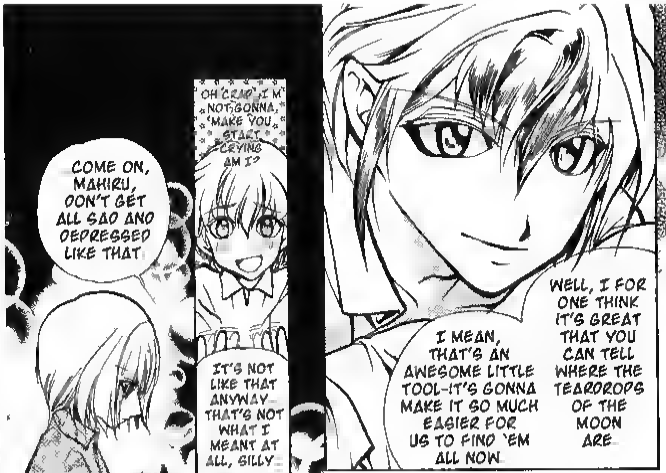
COME ON, MAHIRU, DON'T GET ALL SAD AND DEPRESSED LIKE THAT
OH CRAP, I'M NOT GONNA MAKE YOU START CRYING AM I?
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT ANYWAY— THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT AT ALL, SILLY—
I MEAN, THAT'S AN AWESOME LITTLE TOOL—IT'S GONNA MAKE IT SO MUCH EASIER FOR US TO FIND 'EM ALL NOW
WELL, I FOR ONE THINK IT'S GREAT THAT YOU CAN TELL WHERE THE TERRORDS OF THE MOON ARE

LOOK, I'M A TOOL TOO, YOU KNOW?
BESIDES, IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, EVERYONE IN THIS WORLD USES THEIR OWN ABILITIES OR SOMEONE ELSE'S, ALONG WITH THEIR KNOWLEDGE, THEIR WELL, WHATEVER, TO BETTER THEIR OWN LIVES IN THE END, EVERYONE IS A TOOL AND EVERYONE USES TOOLS AS WELL THAT'S NOT A BAD THING
NOZOMU! YOU YOU'RE JUST LIKE MITSURU. ACTING LIKE I'M SOME KIND OF ROBOT.
AM I JUST A DOLL WITHOUT A SOUL? A PIECE OF EQUIPMENT TO YOU?

Shinjuku Museum of Modern Art
We shall come to claim the Teardrop of the Moon.
..when the light of the moon..
..shines full.

ドン
ドドン
SOOO SLEEPY
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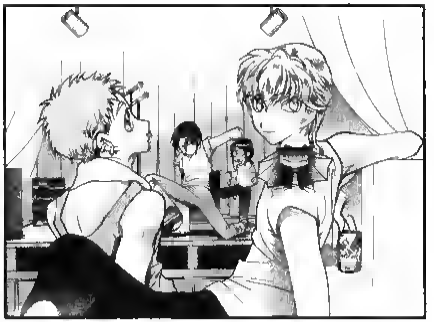
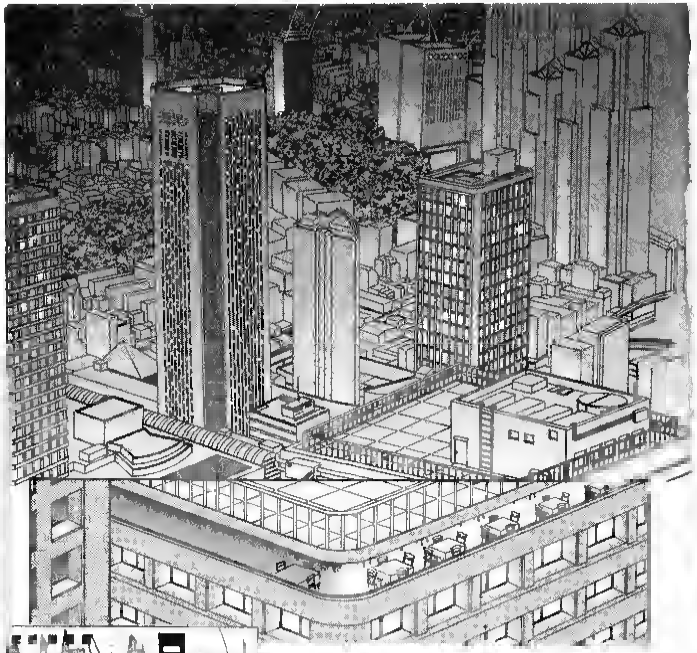
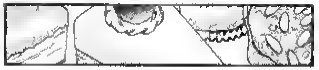
Waiting for the Moon
The Descendant of the Princess Meets the Demons
Part 4.







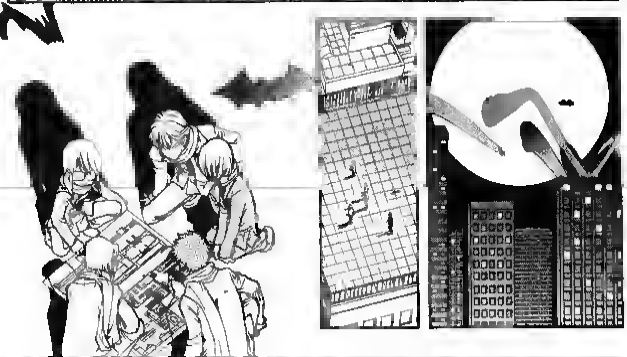
Shinjuku Museum of Modern Art
The Goddess of the Moon
Exhibition unveiled for the first time tonight!
Presente
by Master Sculptor
Kenta Yano

GEEZ, KUSAKABE?! AREN'T YOU DONE EATING YET?!
HIGHLIGHTING HIS FINAL AND MOST MASTERFUL WORK SCULPTED FROM A RARE NATURAL STONE." I GUESS TONIGHT'S THE PREMIERE OF HIS WORK, "GODDESS OF THE MOON," TOO, HUH?
"ON THE 9TH FLOOR OF THE PARK TOWERS, THE SHINJUKU MUSEUM OF MODERN ART PRESENTS AN EXHIBITION OF WORKS BY THE MASTER SCULPTOR KENTA YANO..."
HMM... ITS CREATOR DIED A PRE-MATURE DEATH, HUH? HMMM...
I COULD HAVE BEEN ON A DATE WITH MY GIRL--- MAYBE EVEN AT THAT EXHIBIT CHECKING OUT THE "GODDESS OF THE MOON"♥ I COULD HAVE TAKEN HER TO A CAFE♥ LIKE THIS TO HAVE A BIT OF TEA AND CAKE ♥ THEN WE COULD CHECK OUT THE VIEW AND... ♥
SIGH... SHEESH, ON PRETTY MOONLIT NIGHTS LIKE THIS, PATROL IS SERIOUSLY THE LAST PLACE I WANNA BE THOUGH IT IS A TOTALLY PERFECT NIGHT FOR ROMANCE...
THAT'S IT... THAT'S IT!!
OWWW!! WHAT'S IT?!
ばき
WOW, EVERYONE HERE SURE CAN EAT
ALL YOU CAN EAT FOR 2000 YEN
じろ じろ
MMM
MMM
THE GODDESS OF THE WHAT...?
MUNCH, MUNCH SEE THAT POSTER BACK THERE ABOUT THE EXHIBITION OVER AT THE PARK TOWER?
SLURP, SLURPPPP~~~~ WELL, I WAS JUST ADMIRING THAT FINE FEMININE SPECIMEN ON IT. THE ONE HOLDING THAT JEWEL IN HER HANDS
HRR~~~ ~MMM GODDESS OF THE MOON, HUH?
SAY... ARE YOU ALMOST DONE, SIR?
WE'RE STILL ON DUTY YOU KNOW
COPS

TH-THIS-THIS REALLY IS IT
EVERYONE'S DISCUSSING THE JOB
AND EVERYONE'S TOTALLY SERIOUS ABOUT GOING THROUGH WITH IT
-BUT I SUPPOSE THEY HAVE TO BE, REALLY- BECAUSE IN A FEW MOMENTS WE'LL BE

EH?
YOU'RE DRENCHED IN SWEAT, GIRL. IS THE TEMPERATURE CONTROL DEVICE ON YOUR OUTFIT BROKEN?
M-----
MAKIRU
MAKIRU-CHAN?
"WE"?
BAUM

THE "GODDESS OF THE MOON".
-ON THE NIGHT OF THE FULL MOON
MUNCH~ MUNCH~

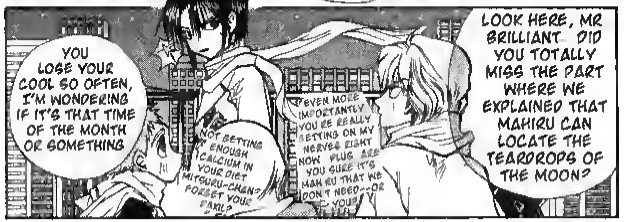


?
GLARE
IT...IT'S NOTHING
.....
HOW CAN YOU BE SO MEAN? IT WASN'T ON PURPOSE!!
IT WAS TOO ON PURPOSE!!
L...
OTHERWISE, STOP MAKING SUCH DAMN PATHETIC FACES LIKE THAT!!
LOOK, IF YOU DON'T WANT TO DO THIS, THEN GO THE HELL HOME!
MITSUKU

LOOK! I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THIS FOR—A LONG TIME NOW AND
—WELL, I MEAN, ISN'T THERE ANOTHER WAY TO DO THIS? A BETTER WAY TO DO THIS? WITHOUT RESORTING TO THEFT?
WHY THE HELL SHOULD WE HAVE TO SPEND MONEY TO TAKE BACK SOMETHING THAT'S RIGHTFULLY OURS IN THE FIRST PLACE?!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! IT'S YOU DAMNED HUMANS THAT STARTED THE STEALING!!
BESIDES, WE'VE GOT A FULL MOON TODAY. WE DON'T NEED THAT STUPID GIRL TO BEGIN WITH!

MITSURU!!

WILL YOU STOP TALKING ABOUT ME LIKE I'M SOME KIND OF TOOL, MITSURU!!
I SAY WE GIVE THAT HUMAN WOMAN A TASTE OF HER OWN PEOPLE'S MEDICINE!!
HUMANS ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR SOME WAY TO USE AND THEN ABUSE US!!


YOU LOSE YOUR COOL SO OFTEN, I'M WONDERING IF IT'S THAT TIME OF THE MONTH OR SOMETHING
NOT GETTING ENOUGH CALCIUM IN YOUR DIET MITSURU-CHAN? FORGET YOUR PAIL?
EVEN MORE IMPORTANTLY YOU'RE REALLY GETTING ON MY NERVES RIGHT NOW. PLUS, ARE YOU SURE IT'S MAHIRU THAT WE DON'T NEED--OR YOU?
LOOK HERE, MR BRILLIANT. DID YOU TOTALLY MISS THE PART WHERE WE EXPLAINED THAT MAHIRU CAN LOCATE THE TEARDROPS OF THE MOON?

KEEP IN MIND THAT SHOULD YOU WISH OR ATTEMPT ANY HARM ON THE PRINCESS, YOU'LL HAVE TO ANSWER TO ME
MITSURU--WHAT YOU JUST SAID--WAS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE SOME KIND OF CHALLENGE TO ME?

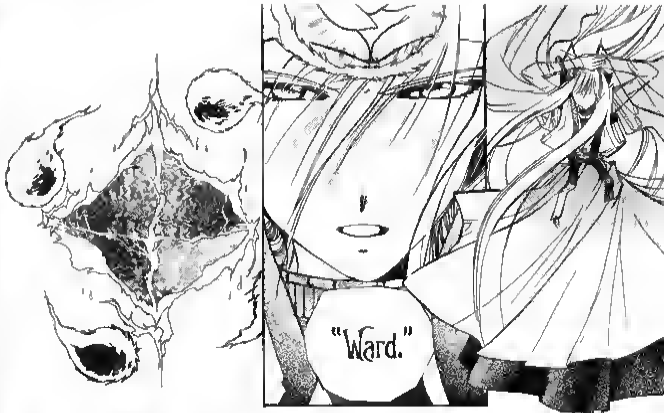
DOH!! HE'S TAKEN HIS POWER-CHARM OUT!! HE'S PLANNING ON TRANSFORMING!!
DAMN IT, MITSURU!! YOU'RE A HUNDRED YEARS SHY OF BEING ABLE TO STAND UP TO MISOKA, YOU FOOL!!
A-A POWER-CHARM?

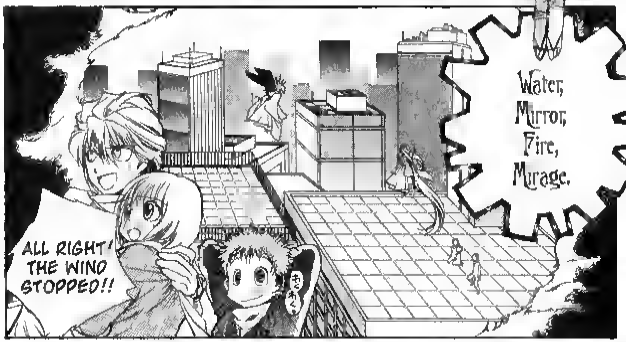
WAAAAOOHHHH!!
FLASH FLURRY
RUMBLE
DON
AAHHHHGHHHHH!!

MAHIRU!!
KYAAHHHHH!!
GRAB
HAHHH HAHH!!
PHEW.

D..DAMN IT.

THANKS FOR LENDING ME YOUR POWER, MITSURU. THIS TRICK WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT IT. NOW, WHILE YOU'RE STUCK, ALLOW ME TO ASK YOU THIS.
HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE CRUSHED BY YOUR OWN WINDS, HMM? SPEAK UP!


"Ward."


Water, Mirror, Fire, Mirage.
ALL RIGHT! THE WIND STOPPED!!

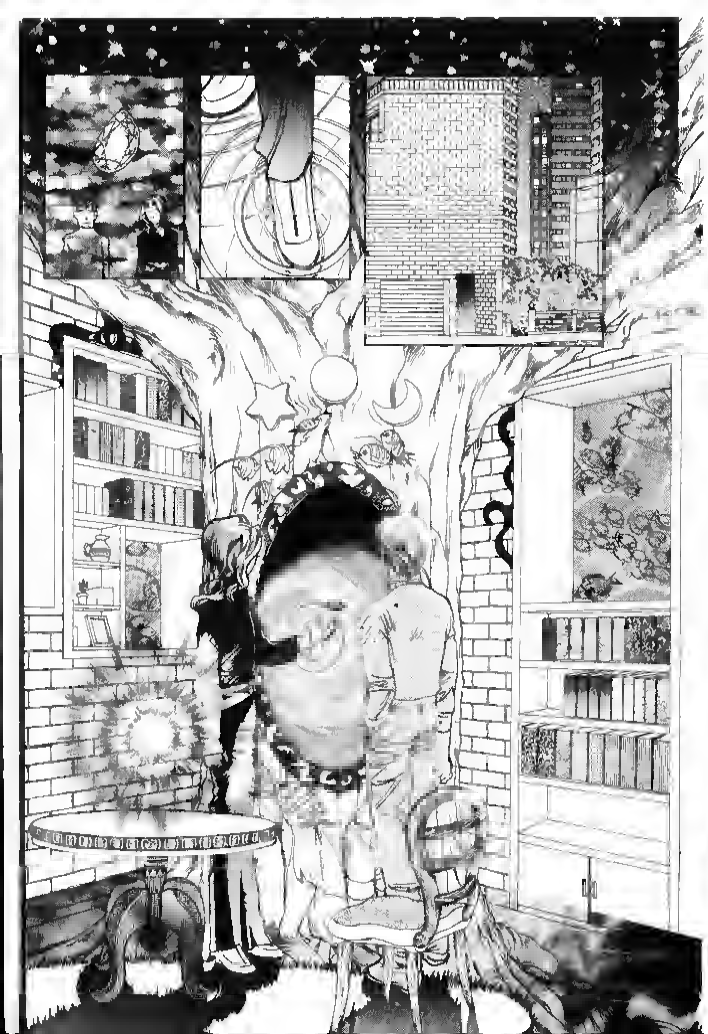
GROOO
DAMN YOU, MISOKA!!

MITSURU... WHY CAN'T YOU GET IT?
KEEP IT UP AND WE'LL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO LET YOU GO.
HE'S FAINTED
HE...HE'S HURT
YOU OKAY, MAHIRU?
MITSURU
WHADDYA THINK THOSE TWO ARE TALKING ABOUT?
HMM..

WWAAHHHHHH!!
UWWAAHH!!
BA
BA
BA
BA
BA
BA
THE PROBLEM IS, WHATEVER YOU PUT IN IS REFLECTED BY THAT BLANKET AND, ULTIMATELY, IS SENT STRAIGHT BACK TO YOU. IN OTHER WORDS, YOU'RE TRAPPING YOURSELF WITH YOUR OWN POWER, MITSURU
HATE ME ALL YOU WISH, BUT, REALLY I HAVEN'T DONE MUCH. MITSURU ALL I DID WAS PLACE A SIMPLE BLANKET OF MY FLAMES AROUND YOUR WINGS
ズン
SU-

FOR US, THE ONLY THING WE CAN LOOK FORWARD TO WITHOUT THE TEARDROPS OF THE MOON IS DEATH
LOOK HERE, MAHIRU TO PUT IT SIMPLY, IT'S LIKE THIS WHEN NATURE GETS POLLUTED, WE CAN'T LIVE
MAHIRU!!
AH, MISOKA IT'S MAHIRU SHE
TAP
WHAT'S THE MATTER?

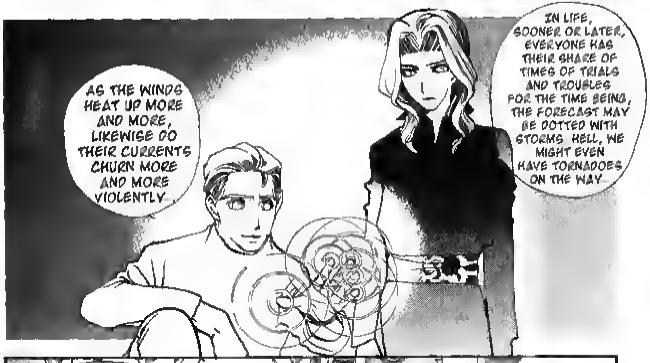
I GET THAT HUMANS STOLE THE TEARDROPS FIRST BUT STEALING, NO MATTER HOW JUSTIFIED IS ONLY GOING TO MAKE YOU MORE AND MORE HATED BY THE HUMANS
I. I CAN'T HANDLE THIS ALL THIS HURTING ALL THIS HATING!!
INTERESTED THERE
INTERESTED HERE
CAN'T DECIDE ON WHICH STORY TO FOLLOW
YOU'RE PALE AS A GHOST, MAHIRU THAT FALL BACK THERE MUST HAVE REALLY SCARED YOU, HUH?
AND I SWEAR I'LL BECOME STRONGER THAN ANY OF YOU!!
LET ME MAKE THIS EASY ON YOU I'LL LEAVE-I'M DONE WITH ALL OF THIS WITH ALL OF YOU
AS FOR THIS TEARDROP OF THE MOON I THINK I'LL BE TAKING THAT



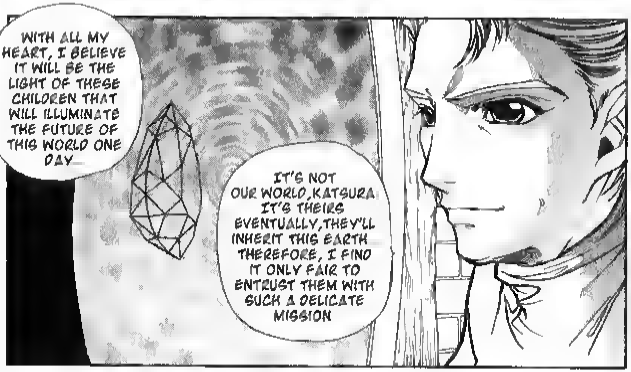
BECAUSE YOU'RE OUR PRINCESS, MAHIRU.
OKAY BUT BUT WHAT DOES THAT REALLY HAVE TO DO WITH ME? WHY SHOULD I CARE?
IT'S BELIEVED THAT THE TEARDROPS OF THE MOON HAVE THE POWER TO STRENGTHEN THE LIFE FORCE OF OUR PEOPLE...
...WHICH IS WHY WE WERE SENT HERE TO RETURN IT TO ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE, OUR HOME, THE MOON PALACE.
SO WHADDYA SAY? WILL YOU HELP US OUT?
WE PROMISE TO PROTECT YOU, MAHIRU. YOU DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT--
R... REALLY?
OF COURSE! WE PROMISE! SWEAR ON THE MOON!
SEE? SEE?! JUST LIKE WE SAID! NOW WE'RE IN KIND OF A HURRY RIGHT NOW, BUT WE PROMISE WE'LL MAKE IT UP TO WHOM EVER WE OFFENDED, LATER! CROSS OUR HEARTS!!

I HOPE THAT ALL GOES WELL TOO, SIRE... BUT...
I CAN'T HELP WORRYING ABOUT MITSURU'S OBSTINACY ENDANGERING OUR MISSION HERE

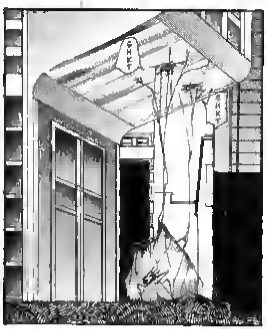
RIGHT NOW, MITSURU IS LEARNING AND DISCOVERING QUITE A BIT ABOUT HIMSELF AND THE WORLD THROUGH HIS ENCOUNTERS WITH THE PRINCESS
THINGS MAY SEEM BAD, BUT I DON'T THINK THE SITUATION IS TOTALLY NEGATIVE


IN LIFE, SOONER OR LATER, EVERYONE HAS THEIR SHARE OF TIMES OF TRIALS AND TROUBLES FOR THE TIME BEING, THE FORECAST MAY BE DOTTED WITH STORMS. WELL, WE MIGHT EVEN HAVE TORNADOES ON THE WAY...
AS THE WINDS HEAT UP MORE AND MORE, LIKEWISE DO THEIR CURRENTS CHURN MORE AND MORE VIOLENTLY...

THEN WHY ENTRUST OUR FUTURE TO THOSE YOUTHS?
WE ARE A DYING PEOPLE, SIRE
HOW CAN WE AFFORD TO TRUST THE RECLAMATION OF THE ONLY THING THAT CAN SAVE US TO SUCH CHILDREN?


WITH ALL MY HEART, I BELIEVE IT WILL BE THE LIGHT OF THESE CHILDREN THAT WILL ILLUMINATE THE FUTURE OF THIS WORLD ONE DAY...
IT'S NOT OUR WORLD, KATSURA IT'S THEIRS EVENTUALLY, THEY'LL INHERIT THIS EARTH THEREFORE, I FIND IT ONLY FAIR TO ENTRUST THEM WITH SUCH A DELICATE MISSION

AND OF THE "PEOPLE OF THE MOON" AS WELL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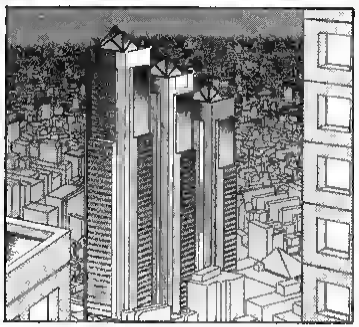


WHA-!! YOU MEAN THEY REALLY CAME?!
VAPOR LEVEL SET AT FIFTY-FIVE DEGREES
FLUORESCENT OXYGEN IS ON STANDBY, SIR
SLEEPING GAS?
SURE SEEMS THAT WAY— THOSE ARE DEFINITELY ELECTRICAL DISCHARGES AROUND HIM
WELL I'LL BE WILL YOU LOOK AT THAT? CAN THAT THING MAKE ITS OWN ELECTRICITY?
THERE MAY BE A PROBLEM WITH THE AIR CONDITIONING
THE LEVEL OF HUMIDITY IN THE AIR JUST SKY-ROCKETED, SIR
LOOKS LIKE IT'S JUST THIS ONE
HEY, WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THE SCREEN? WHY'S IT ALL BLURRY?

GEEZ... THAT S.O.B WALKED RIGHT THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR
INSPECTOR! THINK HE'S ONE OF THOSE BANDITS?
SHHHH!! QUIET!
W...WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?!
WHAHH!!
RAK!!
WWAAHHH-.....!!
CAUTION
HE'S CLIMBING UP THE STAIRS MUST BE HEADED TO THE MUSEUM
YES SIR
SHEESH... MEANIE THIS IS THE SECOND TIME YOU'VE WHAPPED ME TODAY
CAN YOU PREPARE FOR THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE SLEEPING GAS?

THE CURTAIN'S MOVING—BUT THERE'S NO WIND. IT'S A CLOSED BUILDING.
SHH. QUIET DOWN.
HAAHHHHHHHHHH!!

THE AREA THE MONSTER JUST PASSED THROUGH ON THE MONITOR IS SHOWING UP AS 28 DEGREES CELSIUS.
—BUT THE AREAS THE MONSTER PASSED THROUGH FIVE MINUTES AGO ARE SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER. JUST 21 DEGREES CELSIUS, SIR!
HM. THANKS.
KUSAKABE, WHAT'S THE TEMPERATURE READING IN THAT ROOM?
SO. WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS THE IMAGE ISN'T BLURRED—IT'S THE CAMERA LENS THAT'S FOGGED-UP?
DON'T ASK ME. HOW THE HELL SHOULD I KNOW?
SHH. HE'S HERE. STANDING RIGHT IN FRONT OF THE MUSEUM

IT'S JUST A MANNEQUIN!! A DECOY?!
WHAT?!
NOW I'LL BE STRONGER THAN ANY OF THEM!
DO IT!
DEPLOYING SLEEPING GAS, SIR
COME ON THIS HAG GOT TO WORK! IT'S ENOUGH TO PUT A DAMN ELEPHANT TO SLEEP
THE MONSTER'S HEART RATE IS DROPPING
ITS RESPIRATION HAS CEASED, SIR
Waiting for the Moon Part 4 - The End

WOULD YOU LOOK AT THAT, KUSAKABE? HOLY CRAP HE JUST BROKE THROUGH A SOLID CHITIN PANEL!!
I SAID, QUIET IN THE PEANUT GALLERY DAMN IT!
WE'VE LOCKED THE ROOM DOWN!
THE SLEEPING GAS IS READY FOR DEPLOYMENT, SIR
RRRR---- WOULD YOU CHECK OUT THAT TOTALLY ARROGANT LOOK ON HIS FACE?
WHAT THE HELL IS HE TRYING TO SAY? THAT THOSE PANELS AIN'T NOTHING TO HIM?
KEEP OUT

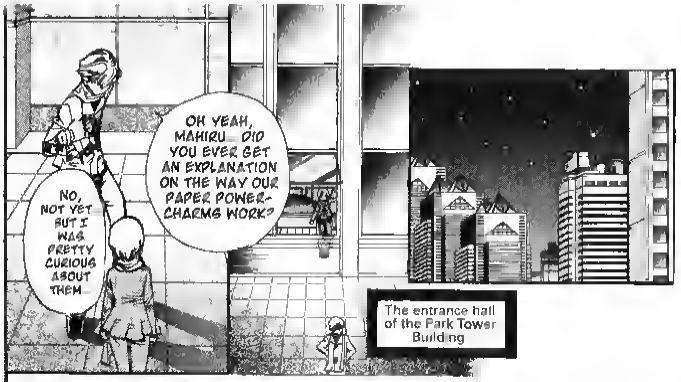
Waiting for the Moon

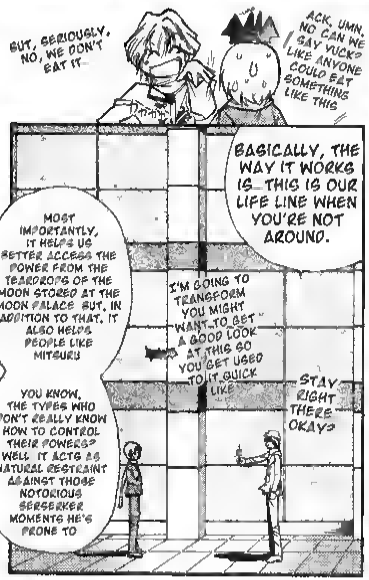
The Descendant of the Princess Meets the Demons

Part 5.

I-ITS HEART ITS HEART HAS STOPPED BEATING
!!
ITS HEART STOPPED?
...I...IS IT DEAD?
!!
OKAY I'M GETTING THERE— AND THERE—
AND SO SOMEONE TO MAKE A REPLACEMENT OF THE DOOR THIS PAIN FREE? TORE THROUGH ON THE FIRST FLOOR!
YOU CAN YOU GUYS HEAR ME? HOLD YOUR POSITION ON THE EIGHTH FLOOR!
SIR WE'RE CURRENTLY FILTERING IN WATER VAPOR TO CLEANSE THE AIR OF IMPURITIES ONCE THAT PROCESS IS COMPLETE, IT'LL BE SAFE FOR US TO GO IN AND RETRIEVE THE BODY
—HOWEVER, ANY ONE OR THING SUBJECTED TO IT WILL SUFFER ACUTE ASPHYXIATION, ENTERING A STATE OF TEMPORARY "DEATH"
ABOUT THE GAS WE USED ON HIM SIR— THE CONCENTRATION SHOULDN'T BE DEADLY
S. SORRY, GEEZ!!
WHY DO YOU KEEP ASKING ME THESE THINGS?! HOW THE HELL WOULD I KNOW?

!!
OH MY GOD NO KUSAKABE!!
.....
FOR MITSURU A JOB LIKE THAT SHOULD ONLY TAKE ABOUT FIVE MINUTES-- TOPS
YEP, SOME-THING'S DEFINITELY NOT RIGHT
I'M GETTING A REALLY BAD VIBE ABOUT THIS, GUYS—


OH YEAH, MAHIRU... DID YOU EVER GET AN EXPLANATION ON THE WAY OUR PAPER POWER-CHARMS WORK?
NO, NOT YET BUT I WAS PRETTY CURIOUS ABOUT THEM...
The entrance hall of the Park Tower Building


BUT, SERIOUSLY, NO, WE DON'T EAT IT...
ACK, UMM... NO CAN WE SAY YUCK? LIKE ANYONE COULD EAT SOMETHING LIKE THIS
BASICALLY, THE WAY IT WORKS IS... THIS IS OUR LIFE LINE WHEN YOU'RE NOT AROUND.
MOST IMPORTANTLY, IT HELPS US BETTER ACCESS THE POWER FROM THE TEARDROPS OF THE MOON STORED AT THE MOON PALACE. BUT, IN ADDITION TO THAT, IT ALSO HELPS PEOPLE LIKE MITSURU
I'M GOING TO TRANSFORM. YOU MIGHT WANT TO GET A GOOD LOOK AT THIS SO YOU GET USED TO IT QUICK LIKE
STAY RIGHT THERE, OKAY?
YOU KNOW, THE TYPES WHO DON'T REALLY KNOW HOW TO CONTROL THEIR POWERS? WELL IT ACTS AS NATURAL RESTRAINT AGAINST THOSE NOTORIOUS BERSERKER MOMENTS HE'S PRONE TO

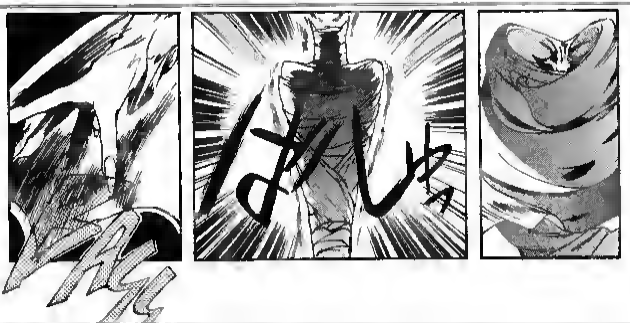
WELL, I GUESS YOU COULD SAY IT WORKS LIKE A TRANQUILIZER...
IT'S VERY TASTY...♥
OH, YOU EAT THEM?

I, IF YOU REALLY MEANT WHAT YOU SAID BEFORE ABOUT FOLLOWING THROUGH WITH REPARATIONS THEN, THEN I'LL HELP YOU
SO WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?
MITSURU'S YOUR FRIEND, RIGHT?

EVERYBODY IS SO WIRED. THE TENSION'S SO THICK YOU CAN FEEL IT.

REALLY? YOU'LL REALLY, REALLY HELP US, MAHIRU?
SERIOUSLY?
//
NOD
NOD
YOU GET CROSS MY HEART
YEAH, BUT LIKE I SAID, YOU REALLY, REALLY HAVE TO KEEP YOUR PROMISE ABOUT FOLLOWING THROUGH WITH WHOEVER WE'RE FIGHTING FOR THIS TEARDROP FROM, OKAY?

N
NOZOMU'S GONE?
SQUEEK
!!
WHOP
WHAP WHAPPP
!!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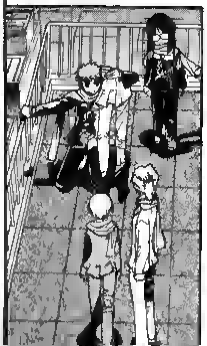
HEY!! ARE YOU HUMANS JUST LIKE THAT OTHER KID TOO?
WHAT'S UP WITH THE MONITOR?!
UGH
MY THANKS IN ADVANCE FOR STANDING IN FOR MITSURU
WAAHH!!
MISOKA!! MITSURU'S DEAD!!
I KNOW AND IF WE DON'T WATCH IT, WE WILL BE TOO!! LET'S GO!!

MUST BE THE REST OF 'EM
INTRUDER DETECTED ON THE ROOF.
SHEESH HE'S JUST A BOY!
IT...IT'S A HUMAN?
KUGAKABE!! WE'VE SIGHTED THE FIRST CREATURE, SIR!! IT'S THE "DOG"!
SO, WE MEET AGAIN, HEH, PUPPY?
AHH, YOUHEI!! THAT USELESS DOLT!!
I-INSPEC-TOR...T-TAKE A LOOK AT THE MONITOR, SI...!!
GULP
WHAT'S THE MATTER YOUHEI? WHAT'S GOING ON UP THERE?
YOUHEI!! ??.....

THE GODDESS OF THE MOON
WILL BE COMING HOME TO HER RIGHTFUL PLACE WITH US THE PEOPLE OF THE MOON"

THAT DAMN THING CAN TALK LIKE A HUMAN?!



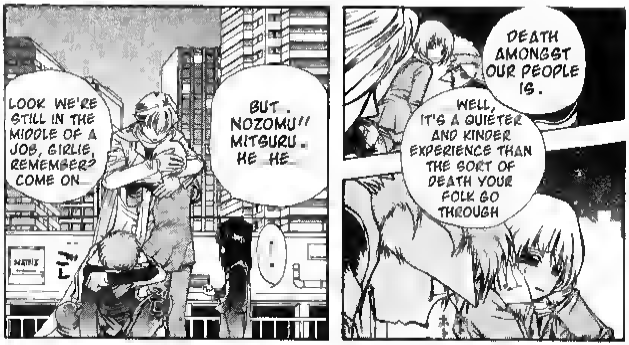
-------!! DAMN IT!! WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE?!

MOVE IT, MOVE IT!! THE MONSTERS ARE AFTER THE GODDESS STATUE ON THE SEVENTH FLOOR!
OVER HERE, MAHIRU LET'S GET OUT OF HERE
DAMN, THEY'RE HERE ALREADY?
IS THAT...THE GODDESS OF THE...?
IT'S SO BRIGHT!!
WWAAHHH!! WHAT THE HECK IS THAT LIGHT?

NO WAY. IT'S THE GODDESS OF THE MOON OR?? DAMN IT! GET BACK HERE, YOU GOO DAMNED FREAKS!!

DON'T COME ANY CLOSER TO ME!!
H...HOW IS IT THAT ALL OF YOU CAN STAY SO CALM? AREN'T YOU SAD?!
HE CAN'T BE DEAD!! HE JUST CAN'T BE!! MITSURU...IT'S GOT TO BE SOME KIND OF MISTAKE!!
LET'S HEAD BACK HOME FOR NOW WE CAN TALK ABOUT IT THERE
AS FOR YOU... OR ANY OF THEM, SUFFICE IT TO SAY I DON'T CONSIDER ANY OF YOUR LOT A FRIEND.
GET THE HELL OUT!!
I WANT TO GET STRONGER
DON'T YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I HATE JOKES ABOUT DEATH...
COME ON, MITSURU IT'S NOT FUNNY.

MITSURU
BY THE TIME WE GOT TO HIM IT WAS
WELL, IT WAS ALREADY TOO LATE


LOOK WE'RE STILL IN THE MIDDLE OF A JOB, GIRLIE, REMEMBER? COME ON
BUT... NOZOMU!! MITSURU... HE HE...
DEATH AMONGST OUR PEOPLE IS...
WELL, IT'S A QUIETER AND KINDER EXPERIENCE THAN THE SORT OF DEATH YOUR FOLK GO THROUGH

AKIRA THINK YOU CAN STILL FLY?
YEAH
LET'S GO HOME, OKAY? MITSURU?

COME ON, PLEASE?
LOOK IF IF YOU REALLY DIE NOW, THEN
THEN IT'S OVER, YOU KNOW IT'S ALL OVER, MITSURU

COME ON, MAHIRU LET IT GO, WILL YOU? HE'S DEAD HE'S REALLY DEAD
SO JUST LET HIM GO LET HIM GO PEACEFULLY
YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO ME!! I WON'T EVER FORGIVE YOU IF YOU GO AWAY LIKE THIS!! NEVER!!
COME ON, MITSURU! PLEASE! WAKE UP!!

SHEEGH, SHUT THE HELL UP ALREADY!!
AND IT JUST IT WAS LIKE THAT AGAIN
AND THEN IT WASN'T
AND THEN IT WAS LIKE THAT
WAS LIKE
AND THEN
WHOA
IT WAS JUST TOTALLY AMAZING! MIND BOGGLINGLY AWESOME!
YOU MEAN... THOSE PROFESSIONALS THE ONES THAT DEAL WITH THIS TYPE OF CASE?
YOUHE!!
HUH?
THANKS TO THAT LITTLE INCIDENT AT THE PARK TOWER, THE BOYS UPSTAIRS DEEMED IT FIT TO PUMP UP OUR BUDGET A BIT. I DO ME A FAVOR AND GO GET SOME SORT OF MEETING UP WITH "THOSE" KIDS WILL YOU?
HMMMPM.
HUH? OOOH, WAIT FOR ME, SIR!!
OH WOW SO WE'RE FINALLY GETTING THE OKAY TO BRING "THOSE" KIDS IN, HUH?
BUT TRANSFORMING INTO A HUMAN LIKE THAT DO YOU THINK IT'S A REAL PHYSICAL CHANGE OR...
SO WHICH DO YOU THINK CAME FIRST, HUH? THE MAN OR THE MONSTER.. THE MONSTER OR THE MAN...
OOOH, OOOH, GUESS WHAT, KUSAKABE!! I RAN FACE TO FACE INTO ANOTHER ONE OF 'EM, SIR!! ISN'T THAT NEAT?
WAY HUGE!!
EXIT
...I MEAN... WHAT KIND OF FRIGGIN HUMAN COULD POSSIBLY CHANGE THEMSELVES INTO A MONSTER, HUH? SO IT MUST BE THE MONSTER CHANGED ITSELF INTO A HUMAN FIRST, THEN...
IN THE END, WHO GIVES A CRAP HOW THEY TRANSFORM? THEY MIGHT MASQUERADE AS HUMANS, BUT THEY'RE STILL DAMN MONSTERS...

THE SACRED POWER OF THE TEARDROP OF THE MOON?
HUH? OOOH, WAIT FOR ME, SIR!!
I'VE TAKEN CARE OF SPEAKING WITH OBORO. WE HAVE PERMISSION TO USE THE "TEARDROP". THE REST IS UP TO YOU, PRINCESS.
!?
THE SACRED POWER OF THE TEARDROP OF THE MOON? -
SQUEEZE
WAKE UP, MITSURU. PLEASE, WAKE UP
OH...THANK YOU...THANK YOU SO MUCH
Moon Shine
CLOSED

In the deep of the forest that the sun sets upon,

Demon child, demon child

Why do you cry?

WAS I KILLED?
OR WAS IT SUICIDE?
DID MY OWN FRIENDS BETRAY ME?
IS THIS REALLY IT? AM I REALLY GOING TO DIE? OR AM I...?
ALREADY...
GONE ?

MITSURU
I'M OVER HERE

WAAAHHH
SOMEONE!! HELP ME!!
THEY'RE CARRYING ME AWAY!!

JUST LEAVE ME ALONE!! GO AWAY!
NO!! NOT THAT DAMN GIRL AGAIN!!

I CAN'T BREATHE

WAAHH
WAAHH

WAAHH.

MITSURU!!
MITSURU!!
!
WE MIGHT HAVE A MILLION OOO WEAKNESSES THAT WE DON'T EVEN KNOW ABOUT!!
YOU CAN'T TAKE CHANCES LIKE THAT, MITSURU WE'RE NOT HUMANS
YOU SHOULD PROBABLY GO GET CHANGED TOO
YEAH.
COME ON LET'S GO TAKE A REST UPSTAIRS OKAY?
I'LL GO GET YOU SOMETHING TO DRINK OKAY?
.....

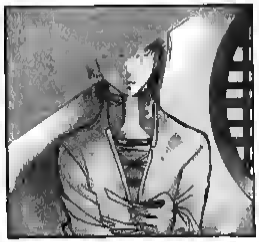
WAKE UP MITSURU!!
?!

!
SQUEEZE
I GUESS IN A WAY WHAT HAPPENED JUST NOW HAS BROUGHT YOU A STEP CLOSER TO US
KOTOW
DON'T WASTE HER HELP.
THIS WAS THE PRINCESS' CHOICE HER SOLUTION.

HUH? THE TEARDROP OF THE MOON?
EYES RED FROM CRYING
THIS ONE'S USELESS NOW I CAN'T SENSE ANY MORE ENERGY FROM IT
.....
HUFF
WELL, OUR TOLERANCE FOR MAN-MADE SUBSTANCES LIKE THAT SLEEPING GAS THEY USED ON YOU IT'S DEVASTATING, TO SAY THE LEAST
CHRYSLERS FIFTH MONAI
OUR WEAK SPOTS ARE MANY, LIKE THE DEADLY ONE YOU JUST FELL VICTIM TO IT'S NOT THAT WE HAVE TO HAVE UNSPOILED NATURE TO SURVIVE, BUT OUR COMPATIBILITY WITH
QUITE FRANKLY, JUST BY EXISTING ON THIS PLANE WE RECEIVE SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE
LOOK, MITSURU, SINCE YOU GREW UP AMONGST HUMANS, YOU MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN AWARE OF THE VULNERABILITIES OUR PEOPLE POSSESS, BUT

HMPH. GREAT
AND NOW I OWE THAT DAMN GIRL... JUST FRIGGIN' GREAT...

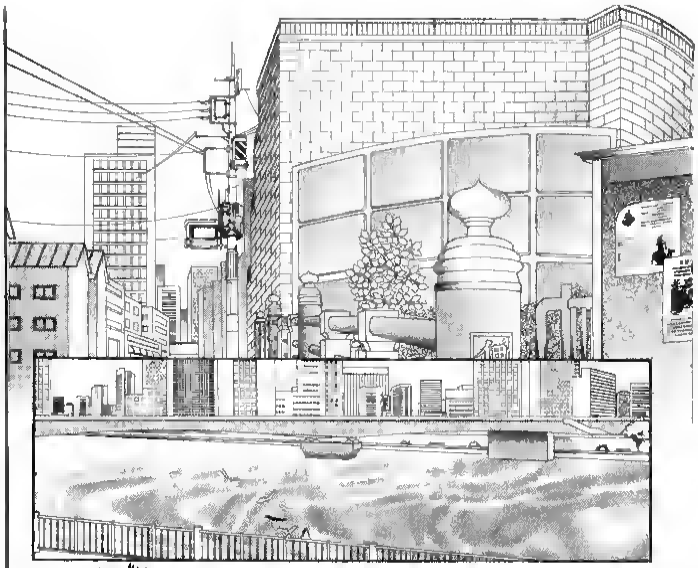
YOU KNEW DIDN'T YOU YOU KNEW WHAT WOULD HAPPEN
MAY I HELP YOU?
SUCH A LITTLE SNOT
MAYBE YES MAYBE NO.
HEH, YOU HEARD THAT, HUH? DAMN EARS OF YOURS
OH, IS THE POT CALLING THE KETTLE BLACK?
WAKE UP, MITSURU
WAS I SAVED BECAUSE OF THE TEARDROP OF THE MOON'S POWER?

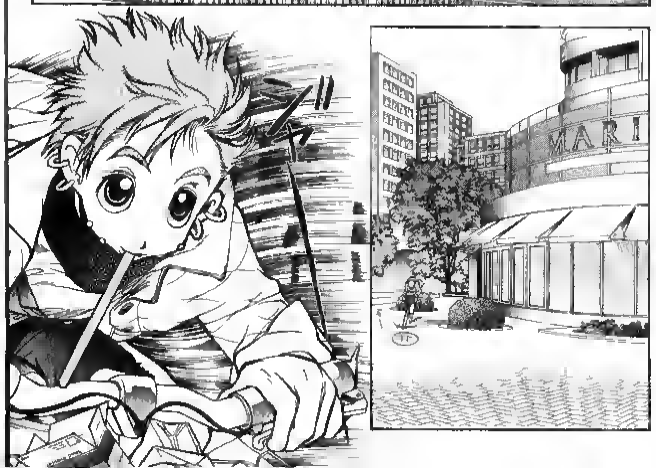


R...
RECLAIMED LAND AND A-A TENT?

THE "WPF"... WHAT IS IT?
FLAGG WPF
KEI?!
OH WHAT FUN IT SEEMS...THAT LITTLE WORLD PERFORMANCE FESTIVAL.
The First Moon
The Demons Encounter and Battle an Ancient Enemy.
Part 1.

THE MONSTERS?
THE BEASTS ARE COMING!!!
AND SO MANY PEOPLE PUSHING
FLAGG SO MANY OF THEM
THEY'RE COMING? YES, I SEE! THE WPF

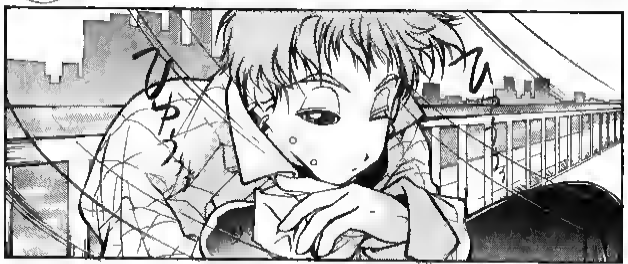



MAR

POLICE

AHH... GOOD!! AND DON'T COME BACK!!
HMPH

OH.
OH.



THAT'S RIGHT TENGU CAN CONTROL THE WINDS FREELY, CAN'T THEY?
THAT'S GOT TO BE ONE OF THE COOLEST THINGS EVER

AHH, THIS WIND MUST BE MITSURU'S DOING...

Rin
Rin
Rin

MITSURU!!
HEEEYYYY!! WHADDYA DOING?!

SO, LIKE ABOUT THAT WORLD PACIFIC FIESTA THING...
AND THEN I'LL SHOW THAT MISOKA
OF COURSE I CAN. I KNOW THAT...AND I WILL...

I MEANT THE WORLD PERFORMANCE FESTIVAL
WHOOPS, I MESSED UP.
HUH?
ANYWAY, I WAS THINKING... AT THE WPF, THERE'LL BE ALL THESE PERFORMANCES FROM ALL AROUND THE WORLD
OH, THAT THING, HUH. WELL...DON'T LOOK AT ME IF YOU NEED SOMEONE TO GO SCOPE IT OUT WITH YOU.
SO LIKE...LIKE...WELL, I WANTED TO DO SOMETHING TOO, Y'KNOW?! TO REPRESENT JAPAN!
NO, NO, THAT'S NOT IT. DON'T JUMP THE GUN, SHEESH.

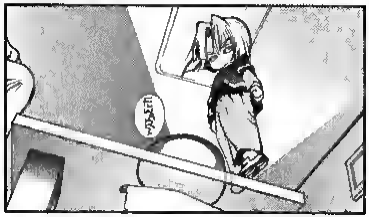
...
I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M SUPPOSED TO SAY WHEN HE YAKS ABOUT STUFF LIKE THAT...

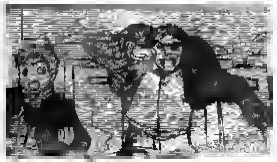
SAY, MITSURU...
I THINK THAT IF YOU REALLY, REALLY TRIED TO DO SOMETHING, THEN YOU COULD GET LIKE...WELL, SUPER STRONG, YOU KNOW?

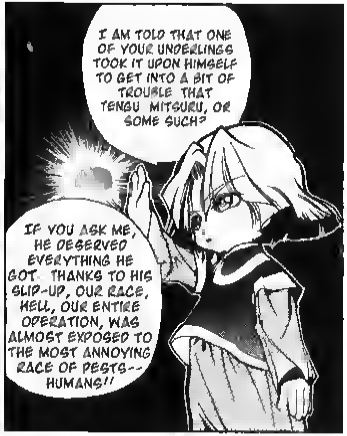
AKIRA, ARE YOU NUTS? THE ONLY REASON WE'RE GOING TO THE WDF IS TO SCOPE OUT THE JOINT SO WE CAN NAB A TEARDROP OF THE MOON
THE OPERATIVE WORDS BEING, "SCOPE OUT" THAT MEANS WE'RE NOT GOING THERE TO WAH!!
SMACK
AND WHY WOULD I WASTE MY TIME TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT, HUH?
YOU WANT TO GET STRONGER, RIGHT? WELL, I WANT TO HELP YOU!
CLICK
AKIRA!!
BAAGGSHHH
THAT HURT, MAN!
ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING TO ME?! YO!!
BGM: THE MARCH OF THE PUPPIES

TWO DAYS FROM NOW
AND, PRAY TELL, WHEN DID YOU BECOME THE OFFICIAL JAPANESE WDF REP?
TO WHAT? TO REPRESENT JAPAN? WHEN?
UH, HUH— RIGHT
HUH? HMM MAYBE JUST NOW? YEAH, THAT'S IT! I JUST DECIDED TO DO IT NOW
WHADDYA SAY, MITSURU? WANNA BE MY PARTNER? WE COULD LIKE, STAGE A SWORD FIGHT OR SOMETHING WEAR TRADITIONAL DRESS AND ALL THAT STUFF!
SOOOOO!!
#@%
!!

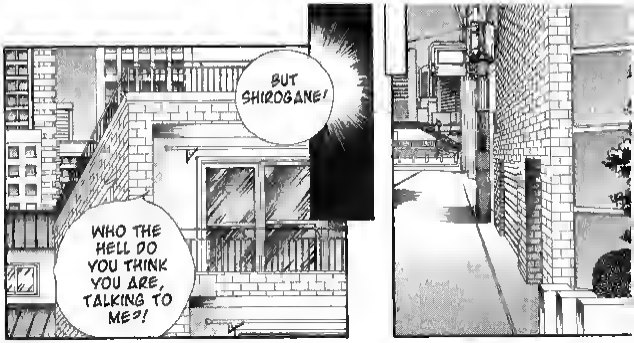
YOU'RE NOT THE "EMPEROR OF THE MOON," UNCLE. I AM!! AND YET YOU DARE QUESTION MY WILL? YOU DARE TO DEFY ME?


HMPH!




I AM TOLD THAT ONE OF YOUR UNDERLINGS TOOK IT UPON HIMSELF TO GET INTO A BIT OF TROUBLE THAT TENGU MITSURU, OR SOME SUCH?
IF YOU ASK ME, HE OBSERVED EVERYTHING HE GOT THANKS TO HIS SLIP-UP. OUR RACE, HELL, OUR ENTIRE OPERATION, WAS ALMOST EXPOSED TO THE MOST ANNOYING RACE OF PESTS--HUMANS!!

BUT THAT WASN'T ENOUGH FOR YOU, WAS IT, UNCLE? YOU JUST HAD TO EXACERBATE THE SITUATION DIDN'T YOU?
WASTING A VALUABLE TEARDROP ON A GOOD-FOR-NOTHING IDIOT LIKE THAT!


BUT SHIROGANE!
WHO THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, TALKING TO ME?!

...

I AM THE ONE TRUE LEADER OF THE DEMON CLAN AND SUPREME RULER OF ALL THE "LUNAR RACE". I AM "EMPEROR OF THE MOON" AND YOU SHALL RESPECT AND ADDRESS ME AS SUCH!!
NEVER FORGET YOUR PLACE AGAIN, OSORO. THE THRONE OF THE MOON PALACE BELONGS TO ME AND NO ONE ELSE!!

HOW CAN YOU STILL BELIEVE THAT I'M AFTER THE THRONE OF THE EMPEROR OF THE MOON...?
SHIROGANE
OTON
WHEN I CAME ALL THE WAY TO THIS PLACE TO ESCAPE THAT FATE?
I WONDER IF THAT'S WHY HE ALWAYS WALKS AROUND WITH SUCH A MELANCHOLY LOOK ON HIS FACE
YES?
IT IS...TO SAVE THE DYING LUNAR RACE FROM EXTINCTION THAT WE MUST GATHER THE TEARDROPS OF THE MOON AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE...TO COLLECT THOSE SACRED GEMS SAID TO POSSESS THE POWER TO STRENGTHEN THE LIFE FORCE OF OUR PEOPLE...THAT IS OUR MISSION

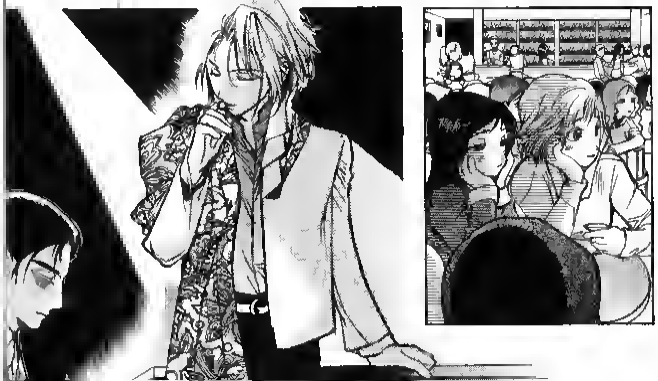
TO OTHERS, YOU MAY BE MY FATHER'S YOUNGER BROTHER. BUT TO ME, YOU'RE NOTHING BUT THE FAMILY'S BLACK SHEEP. A SERVANT, IF YOU WILL.
AND THERE ARE CONSEQUENCES YOU'LL FACE FOR YOUR INSOLENCE FOR YOUR FAILURE
THERE'S A CHANCE THAT WHILE IT'S THERE, IT WILL RECOVER ITS STRENGTH
AS FOR THE RECOVERED TEARDROP, SEND IT TO THE MOON PALACE ANYWAY
DO WE HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING? UNCLE?
AND, IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO ANSWER FOR YOUR FAILURE...
I SUGGEST YOU KEEP YOUR INPUT TO YOURSELF AND WORK HARD TO RECOVER THE REMAINING "TEARDROPS."

AND YET, WHEN I'M HERE, I DON'T FEEL THAT WAY YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
WHAT I MEAN IS... IF I OR ANYONE REALLY SAT DOWN AND THOUGHT ABOUT IT--ABOUT WHAT I'VE DONE, AM DOING ABOUT THIS PLACE AND YOU GUYS, WELL... THEY'D THINK, GEE, THIS IS JUST REALLY, TOTALLY WRONG
I DON'T EVEN FULLY UNDERSTAND THAT PART MYSELF
OH, AND IN OUR CULTURE, THE HUMAN ONE I MEAN, THAT'S A BIG NO-NO. YOU KNOW. WORRYING YOUR FAMILY LIKE THAT. ANYWAY...
LIKE, WHEN PEOPLE AROUND ME SAY, "HOW COULD YOU HURT YOUR FAMILY LIKE THAT? YOU'RE WORRYING THEM SICK," WELL
COME TO THINK OF IT, SHE WASN'T ALWAYS THE TYPE TO VOICE HER THOUGHTS SO OPENLY LIKE THAT, WAS SHE? I DON'T THINK SO
LIKE AN AWAKEN-ING?
I GUESS WHAT I'M SAYING IS, IT DOESN'T AFFECT ME BECAUSE RIGHT NOW, IT'S LIKE I CAN'T TURN BACK. I MADE THIS CHOICE AND I'M STICKING TO IT. AND I REALIZE NOW THAT THIS IS LIKE THE FIRST CHOICE I'VE EVER MADE FOR MYSELF SO CLEARLY
I'VE NEVER FELT LIKE THIS BEFORE! SO ALIVE!

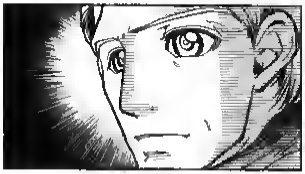
EXCUSE ME, OSORO. I MEAN, UM, ER, MASTER. IT'S GETTING QUITE BUSY DOWN THERE. SO...
OSORO
HMM?
OH, YES. SLOWLY BUT SURELY
SO, ARE YOU FINALLY GETTING ACCUSTOMED TO THINGS AROUND HERE YET, PRINCESS?
IT'S JUST THAT... I FEEL SORT OF HMM... NUMB, I GUESS...
SHE'S TAKEN CARE OF ME SINCE SHE WAS IN HER EARLY TWENTIES. SHE'S DONE MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR ME
I SORT OF LEFT WITHOUT A PROPER EXPLANATION SO I'M WORRIED ABOUT MY AUNT. BUT...
NOW SHE CAN FINALLY GET MARRIED, AT LEAST...

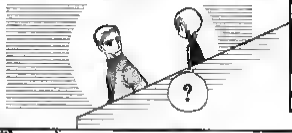
PRINCESS WOULD IT INTEREST YOU AT ALL TO LEARN A BIT MORE ABOUT US?

WANT ME TO TAKE OVER?



I CAN'T HELP BUT GET A GOOD VIBE ABOUT ALL OF THIS. I THOUGHT THAT TRULY HORRIBLE EVENT HAD ONLY CHANGED MITSURU BUT
MITSURU
TO SEE THE PRINCESS SO ENERGIZED AND COMMITTED TO THE CAUSE AFTER IT IS MORE THAN I EVER COULD HAVE ASKED FOR.

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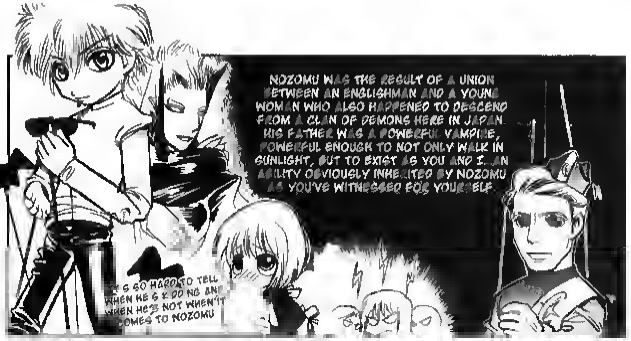
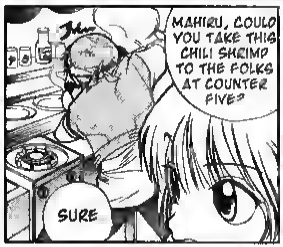
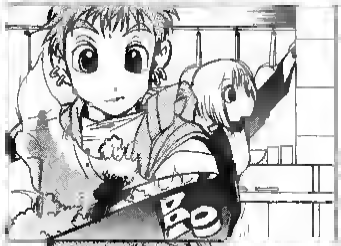
IT'S AS IF I'M STARING AT A TEARDROP OF THE MOON ITSELF SHE'S SO VIBRANT...SO FULL OF STRENGTH
OR IS THAT JUST HER RELAXED FACE? THE PRINCESS WITH HER TRUST AND BEING FULLY OPEN TO US...?

BUT THE PRINCESS AS WELL...?
UNLESS MITSURU WASN'T THE ONLY ONE GIVEN NEW LIFE BY THE TEARDROP...


NOZOMU WAS THE RESULT OF A UNION BETWEEN AN ENGLISHMAN AND A YOUNG WOMAN WHO ALSO HAPPENED TO DESCEND FROM A CLAN OF DEMONS HERE IN JAPAN. HIS FATHER WAS A POWERFUL VAMPIRE, POWERFUL ENOUGH TO NOT ONLY WALK IN SUNLIGHT, BUT TO EXIST AS YOU AND I. AN ABILITY OBVIOUSLY INHERITED BY NOZOMU AS YOU'VE WITNESSED FOR YOURSELF.
IT'S SO HARD TO TELL WHEN HE'S KIDDING AND WHEN HE'S NOT WHEN IT COMES TO NOZOMU


MAHIRU, COULD YOU TAKE THIS CHILI SHRIMP TO THE FOLKS AT COUNTER FIVE?
SURE


BOO

AKIRA WAS BORN IN NORTH EASTERN JAPAN. HE LOST HIS PARENTS EARLY ON, JUST AS YOU DID, PRINCESS...
BUT THE WEREWOLF POPULATION UP THERE IS AMPLE AND TIGHT-KNIT. SO HE WAS FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO GROW UP HAPPILY, WITH THE LOVE OF HIS EXTENDED FAMILY.
WOW. HE'S LIKE TOTALLY SERIOUS WHEN HE COOKS, HUH?

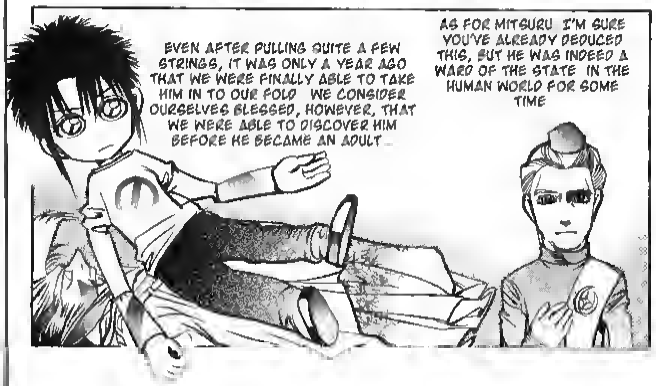
HERE YOU ARE, MA'AM.
OMIGOSH!! HE'S LOOKING THIS WAY!!

Chu

THEY MUST BE PLAYING IT OFF AS KATSURA BEING A SET OF TWINS. I GUESS...
THAT'S RIGHT... SHION IS KATSURA'S LAST NAME ISN'T IT.
DARN IT! SO I GUESS HIS SISTER ONLY SHOWS UP DURING THE FIRST HALF OF THE MONTH, HUH?
LUCKY DAY! TODAY'S THE SHION BROTHER'S SHIFT
HE SAID HE'S TAKING REQUESTS TOO! HOW DREAMY!
GOSH HE'S SOOOO BEAUTIFUL
AS FOR KATSURA, SHE LIVES THE FIRST HALF OF THE MONTH AS A WOMAN, AND THE LAST HALF AS A MAN. SHE'S A HERMAPHRODITE TECHNICALLY. BUT HER SEX WILL CHANGE COMPLETELY EVERY HALF-MONTH
KATSURA IS WHAT'S KNOWN AS A DREAM DEMON, BUT DON'T WORRY, I BELIEVE SHE'LL MAKE A GREAT CONFIDANT TO YOU
OF COURSE
SAY, COULD YOU TAKE A REQUEST TO HIM, PLEASE?

HMM, WHICH ONE'S THE SALTY DOG AGAIN?
THE WHITE ONE GOES TO TABLE 8, PRINCESS.
MISOKA, DO YOU KNOW WHERE THE ORANGES ARE...?
ON TOP OF THE COUNTER, SIR
WHEN HIS MOTHER PASSED AWAY AFTER AN ILLNESS THOUGH, I TOOK HIM UNDER MY WING
MISOKA GREW UP IN THE MOON PALACE WHERE BOTH HE AND HIS MOTHER, A WEREFOX, WORKED IN MY SERVICE
LAFFF

EVER SINCE THAT NIGHT, HE DOESN'T GET MAD AT ME ANYMORE BUT...
SIGH
HE STILL WON'T EVEN MEET MY GAZE
!


EVEN AFTER PULLING QUITE A FEW STRINGS, IT WAS ONLY A YEAR AGO THAT WE WERE FINALLY ABLE TO TAKE HIM IN TO OUR FOLD. WE CONSIDER OURSELVES BLESSED, HOWEVER, THAT WE WERE ABLE TO DISCOVER HIM BEFORE HE BECAME AN ADULT...
AS FOR MITSURU, I'M SURE YOU'VE ALREADY DEDUCED THIS, BUT HE WAS INDEED A WARD OF THE STATE IN THE HUMAN WORLD FOR SOME TIME

LOOK, THAT'S THE ONE I WAS TALKING ABOUT

EH? WHERE'D HE GO?
I'VE GOT ONE MORE REQUEST TO PLAY BEFORE I GET TO YOURS. THAT OKAY?
SIGH
I MUST BE SEEING THINGS AGAIN
HMM? OH, YES TOTALLY! THANKS
I'VE COME THIS FAR TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT MYSELF...ABOUT MY POWERS...
I'VE HAD THIS DREAM SINCE FOREVER...MY RECURRING DREAM ABOUT A YOUNG DEMON AND A BEAUTIFUL PRINCESS...
BUT I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M SUPPOSED TO DO FROM HERE...

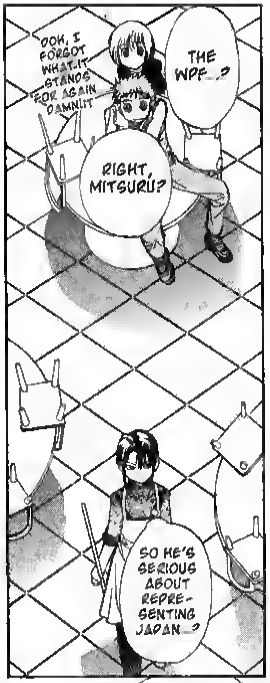
I WONDER... WHAT I COULD POSSIBLY DO TO GET ALONG BETTER WITH EVERYONE... WITH MITSURU, ESPECIALLY... WHEN HE HATES HUMANS SO MUCH...
OH...
WOW! HE DRANK THE WHOLE THING
UMM, THAT'S TAP WATER BY THE WAY
つ!!
きゃ
ごくん

I MADE THE DECISION TO LIVE WITH THESE PEOPLE... ON THE CHANCE I'D LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BIZARRE POWERS I POSSESS
BUT IS THAT REALLY ALL THERE IS TO IT? IS THAT TRULY WHY I'M HERE? WHAT IS IT THAT I... I REALLY WANT FROM ALL OF THIS?
I'M SORRY! IT WAS NOTHING...
?

わくわく
I'M SOOO EXCITED~~~~~~

BANG AND I'M ALL KNACKERED OUT NOW EXHAUSTED
YUP ALMOST COULDN'T GATHER ALL THAT IN TIME
LOOKS LIKE IT'S STARTING THIS WEEK, HMM?
OH YEAH, AND BY THE WAY, MAHIRU?
YO YO, LEADER HERE'S THE INFO ON THE WORLD PERFORMANCE FESTIVAL YOU REQUESTED

I'LL TRY MY BESTEST!!
YEPPERS TOMORROW WE WERE PLANNING ON SCOPING OUT THE FESTIVAL GROUNDS, SO DON'T MAKE ANY PLANS, 'KAY?


OOH, I FORGOT WHAT IT STANDS FOR AGAIN DAMN IT
THE WPF...?
RIGHT, MITSURU?
SO HE'S SERIOUS ABOUT REPRE-SENTING JAPAN...?

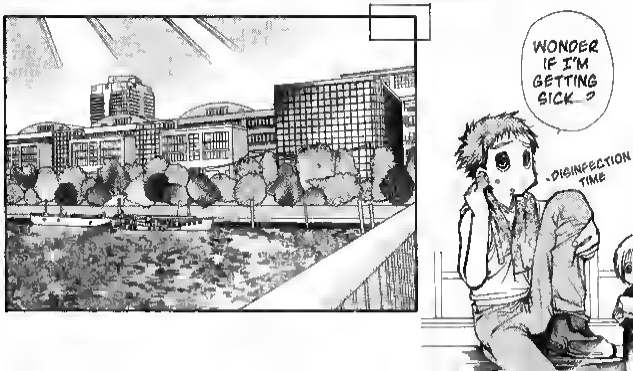
IT'S THE NAME OF THE EVENT WE'LL BE TARGETING TO RECLAIM OUR NEXT TEARDROP OF THE MOON, PRINCESS
OH, YEAH! I REMEMBER NOW

AKIRA, ARE YOU DOING SOME KIND OF HARDCORE TRAINING OR SOMETHING? YOU'RE DRENCHED WITH SWEAT
YUP! JUST A BIT OF PRACTICE

YOU'VE HEARD OF THE WPF HAVEN'T YOU, MAHIRU?
WELL, I WAS GOING TO DO A LITTLE PERFORMANCE THERE TO REPRESENT JAPAN

SO OUR CLASS TRIP IS GOING TO BE TO KYOTO, HUH, NARA?
CLASS TRIP NARA, KYOTO
HEY, MAHIRU, THEY SAID THEY'RE GOING TO PICK OUR NAMES OUT OF A HAT TO GROUP US
OH?
COME ON, GIRLIE LEND US ALL SOME LUCK ON THIS, PLEASE? DUCKIE--
YEAH, MAHIRU! MAKE SURE WE ALL END UP IN THE SAME GROUP!

OOOWWW!! KYAAINN.
DOHH, I GOT HURT...
HA HA, IT'S JUST A RECON THING, SWEETIE NOT THE REAL DEAL
SO THERE'S NO NEED TO GET ALL GUNG HO
THAT'S SOOO WEIRD. I'VE NEVER REALLY BLED FROM IT BEFORE THOUGH...
AND WHOSE FAULT IS THAT? YOU'RE ALWAYS FUTZING AROUND WITH THOSE DAMN THINGS
SOMEONE GET A TISSUE

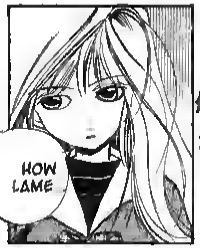

WONDER IF I'M GETTING SICK...?
-DISINFECTION TIME

UMM, SORRY GUYS I HAVE TO GO USE THE BATHROOM FOR A SEC
UPSTAIRS?
CHU CHU.
MAHIRU'S PET BAT, MR. BAT
OH MY GOSH, DID YOU SEE THAT? THERE WAS LIKE A BAT FLYING OUTSIDE THE WINDOW
A BAT? EWWW--- BUT IT'S NOT EVEN DARK OUTSIDE YET
I WONDER WHAT MR BAT'S DOING AT SCHOOL OF ALL PLACES DARN I HOPE NOTHING'S WRONG

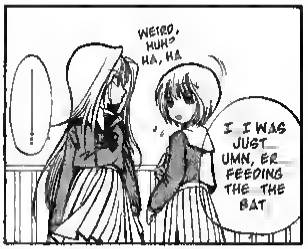
JUST MAKE SURE SHE DOESN'T GET IN OUR GROUP, OKAY?
JUNKO
HMMPH, WOULD YOU LOOK AT HER? JUST BECAUSE SHE'S PRETTY SHE THINKS SHE CAN BE MISS-BETTER-THAN-THOU HUH?
KEIKO HIMURA, HUH HMM, WELL, SHE DOES SEEM KIND OF UNAPPROACHABLE FOR SURE A BIT COLD I GUESS
OH, PLEASE, MAHIRU, PLEASE DON'T LET US END UP IN THE SAME GROUP AS THAT SNOT-TASTIC HIMURA WENCH!
WHAT'S UP, MR BAT?!

OH, THERE YOU ARE!! MR. BAT!!
MAKIRU, WE'RE CURRENTLY OVER AT THE WPF HALL
SORRY FOR SENDING SENOR BAT. DIDN'T MEAN TO FREAK YOU OUT.
SCUFF SCUFF
THAT'S THE EXHIBITION HALL WHERE THE TSUKIDOKI OF THE MOON'S SUPPOSED TO BE DISPLAYED, RIGHT? WAIT A MINUTE. I THOUGHT YOU WEREN'T GOING THERE UNTIL LATER THIS EVENING
EH? MITSURU?
WOW! THIS PLACE IS HUGE!
I GUESS AKIRA DIDN'T HAD HIS OWN
WELL, THAT WAS OUR ORIGINAL PLAN BUT

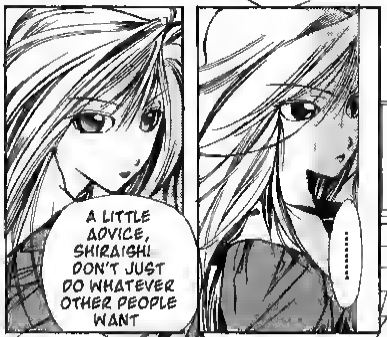
AND REMEMBER? MITSURU'S STAYING HOME TODAY SAID THERE'S NO REASON FOR THE WHOLE LOT OF US TO SHOW UP FOR SOMETHING THAT'S JUST RECON
AKIRA'S TAKING THE INITIATIVE, HUH? HOW UNUSUAL
OH, THAT'S RIGHT
NO, AKIRA.
ANYHOW, YOU KNOW HOW AKIRA GETS WHEN HE'S INTO SOMETHING DESPITE THOSE BIG-ASS CANINE EARS OF HIS, HE WON'T HEAR A WORD WE SAY SO...ME AND MISOKA HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO JUST WATCH OVER HIM MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T GET HIMSELF INTO TROUBLE
ANYHOW, APPARENTLY AKIRA HAS MADE UP HIS MIND THAT HE'S GOING TO DO SOME SORT OF PERFORMANCE TODAY AT THE HALL. SURPRISED THE HECK OUT OF ALL OF US.
SORRY FOR THE INTERRUPTION
AND I'M TOTALLY ULTRA MEGA EXCITED
I'M GOING TO DO A PERFORMANCE FOR THE WPF
DUDE
THAT WOULD BE GREAT. GIVE US A RING WHEN YOU GET THERE AND WE'LL COME GET YOU
ALL RIGHT SHALL I MEET YOU AT THE ENTRANCE THEN?
OH THAT'S WHAT HE WAS TALKING ABOUT LAST NIGHT
SO...WE WERE WONDERING IF YOU COULD HEAD OVER TO THE HALL ASAP


HOW LAME

OOH, I WONDER IF SHE SAW ME TALKING TO ME BAT


WEIRD, HUH? HA, HA
I I WAS JUST UMM, ER FEEDING THE THE BAT

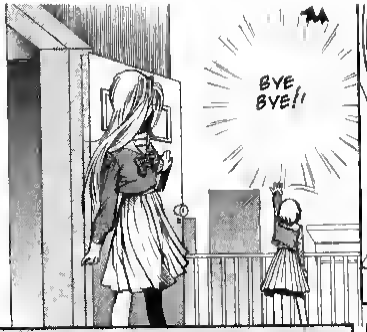
UH, NO I SAID, HOW LAME
ME? LAME?
HUH? WHA H. HIMURA-SAN?

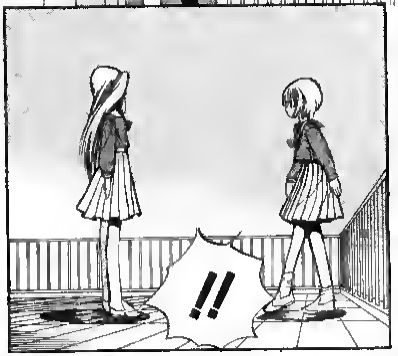

A LITTLE ADVICE, SHIRAISHI DON'T JUST DO WHATEVER OTHER PEOPLE WANT

.....

BUT IT WASN'T DIRECTED AT YOU, SHIRAISHI
LAME IS WHAT I WAS DOING

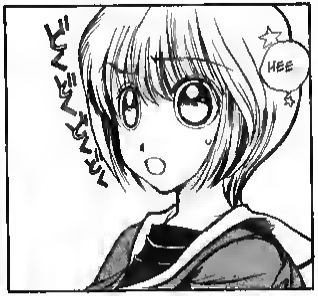
YOU'RE PRETTY FAMOUS YOU KNOW THE GIRLS FROM THE SWIM TEAM SAY YOU "GIVE THEM LUCK" OR SOMETHING WILD LIKE THAT.

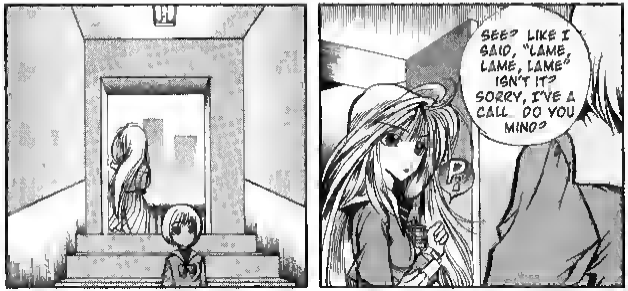

BYE, BYE!!


!!

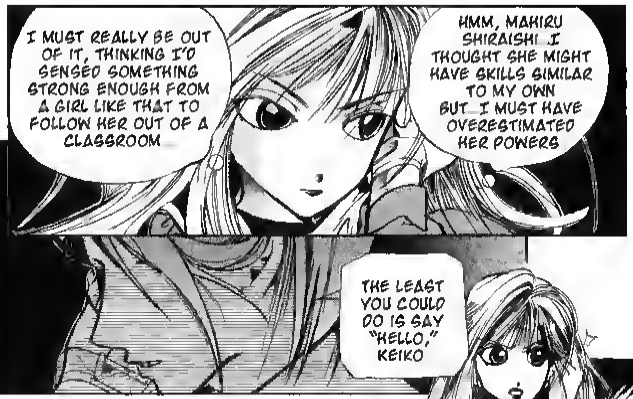
PHEW I'M GLAD THAT THAT'S ALL IT WAS AND NOT SOMETHING ELSE
OKAY, SO I GOTTA GET TO THE WEIGHTS AS SOON AS SCHOOL LETS OUT.

KEIKO HIMURA!!


HEE



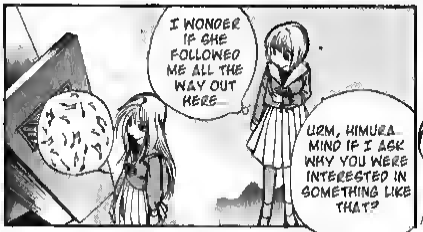
SEE? LIKE I SAID, "LAME, LAME, LAME" ISN'T IT? SORRY, I'VE A CALL... DO YOU MIND?


I MUST REALLY BE OUT OF IT, THINKING I'D SENSED SOMETHING STRONG ENOUGH FROM A GIRL LIKE THAT TO FOLLOW HER OUT OF A CLASSROOM...
HMM, MAHIRU SHIRAISHI... I THOUGHT SHE MIGHT HAVE SKILLS SIMILAR TO MY OWN BUT...I MUST HAVE OVERESTIMATED HER POWERS

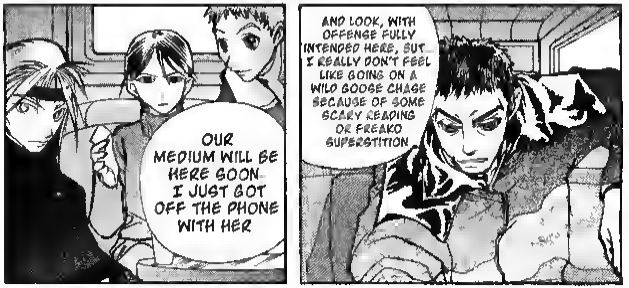
THE LEAST YOU COULD DO IS SAY "HELLO," KEIKO
I'VE SAID IT ONCE AND I'LL SAY IT AGAIN I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS AND I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOU!!
!!
YOU KNOW WHAT, BIRD-BRAIN? JUST GIVE IT UP, OKAY!!

BECAUSE WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO IT, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'LL END UP HURT IN THE END
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I THINK ABOUT THAT...BUT WHAT I DO KNOW IS THAT YOU'RE JUST BETTER OFF NOT HAVING ANY SPECIAL "POWERS" AT ALL
D...DO YOU BELIEVE THAT TOO, HIMURA?

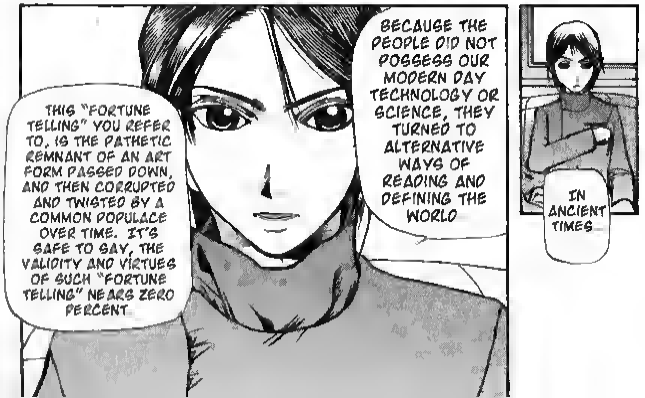
SORRY FOR THE INTRUSION...BUT I COULDN'T HELP BUT NOTICE YOUR BEHAVIOR BACK IN CLASS...

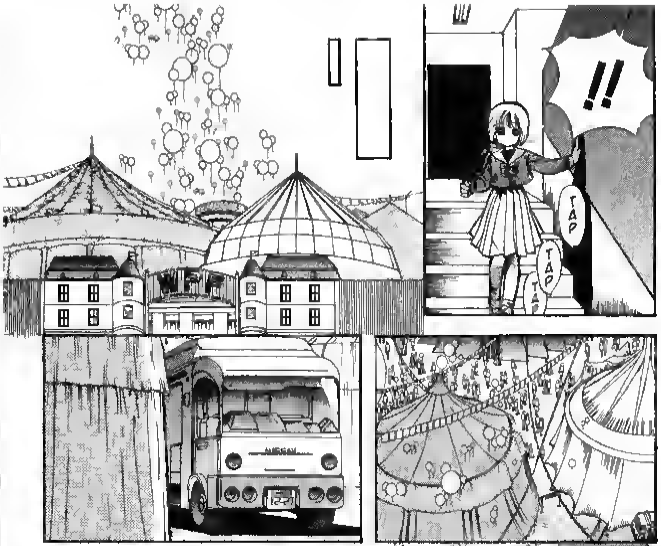

I WONDER IF SHE FOLLOWED ME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE...
UZM, HIMURA MIND IF I ASK WHY YOU WERE INTERESTED IN SOMETHING LIKE THAT?

HMMM SO YOU'RE TELEPATHIC AS I SUSPECTED, EH? TALKING TO ANIMALS LIKE THAT
OOH SO YOU DID SEE THAT LITTLE EXCHANGE WITH ME BAT AFTER ALL?
WHAT I WAS WANTING TO QUIZ HIM ABOUT IS HIS TELEPATHIC ABILITY


OUR MEDIUM WILL BE HERE SOON. I JUST GOT OFF THE PHONE WITH HER
AND LOOK, WITH OFFENSE FULLY INTENDED HERE, BUT... I REALLY DON'T FEEL LIKE GOING ON A WILD GOOSE CHASE BECAUSE OF SOME SCARY READING OR FREAKO SUPERSTITION

KUSAKABE-SAN...
GREAT! SO THIS REALLY IS SOME HOKEY POKEY FORTUNE TELLING DEAL ISN'T IT?


THIS "FORTUNE TELLING" YOU REFER TO, IS THE PATHETIC REMNANT OF AN ART FORM PASSED DOWN, AND THEN CORRUPTED AND TWISTED BY A COMMON POPULACE OVER TIME. IT'S SAFE TO SAY, THE VALIDITY AND VIRTUES OF SUCH "FORTUNE TELLING" NEARS ZERO PERCENT.
BECAUSE THE PEOPLE DID NOT POSSESS OUR MODERN DAY TECHNOLOGY OR SCIENCE, THEY TURNED TO ALTERNATIVE WAYS OF READING AND DEFINING THE WORLD.
IN ANCIENT TIMES...

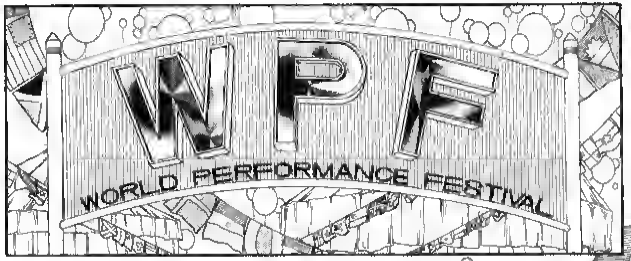

!!
TAP
TAP

I MEAN, WHAT'S THERE TO STEAL HERE? APPLAUSE?
YOU ABSOLUTELY POSITIVE THE "MOONLIGHT BANDITS" ARE GOING TO SHOW UP AT A PLACE LIKE THIS?

AND WHAT EXACTLY IS SO GOOD ABOUT THAT, HUH?
WELL? ANSWER ME DAMN IT!!

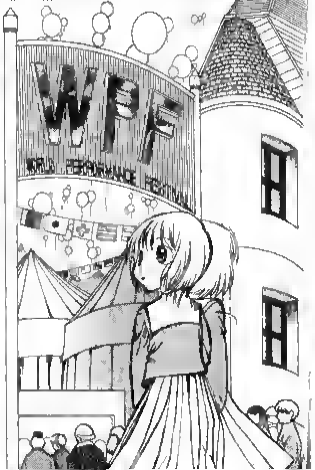
YOU'VE GOT A BAL "THAT'S FOR SURE"
WHOA SLOW DOWN THERE
MAN ALIVE!! NICE TO BE YOUNG ISN'T IT? FEEL LIKE YOU'VE GOT NOTHING TO LOSE?
THWICHE

BAM


WPF
WORLD PERFORMANCE FESTIVAL

ソフトクリーム

AH—I SENSE IT— THE POWER OF A TEARDROP OF THE MOON


WPF
WORLD PERFORMANCE FESTIVAL

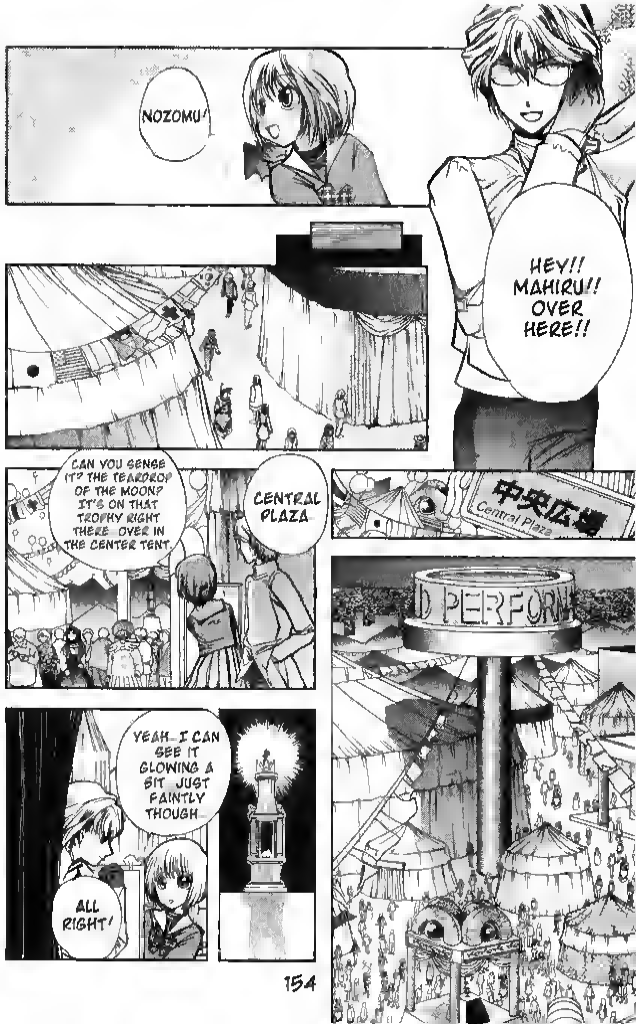
BUT, YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THEY'RE AFTER

BECAUSE WE DID NOT "RECEIVE" THESE ANCIENT THEORIES SECOND HAND WE LIVE THESE THEORIES FIRST HAND—WE ARE THE "ORIGINALS" IF YOU WILL
AND THAT IS WHERE WE DIFFER, INSPECTOR

AFTER ALL, THERE'S BARELY A HANDFUL OF YOU
NOT TO MENTION— AND THIS ISN'T TO BE RUDE BUT— HOW ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO PATROL AND PROTECT A PLACE OF THIS SIZE WITH ABSOLUTELY NO BACK-UP OR SECURITY?

A MILLION GOOD FOR NOTHINGS ACCOUNT TO EXACTLY THAT NOTHING ZERO TIMES ANY NUMBER IS STILL ZERO, Y'KNOW.
IT'S NOT NUMBERS THAT MATTERS IN THINGS LIKE THIS

OKIE DOKE, OVER HERE NEXT...
SO THAT'S THE TEARDROP OF THE MOON, HUH? LUCKY... MAYBE THIS DOG WON'T BE SO BAD AFTER ALL...
WOW!! HE'S LIKE... BREATHING FIRE!!
TALK ABOUT HOT, HOT, HOT!!
OH MY GOSH! LOOK HOW HIGH UP HE IS!
A LONG, LONG TIME AGO, STREET PERFORMANCES LIKE THESE WERE PRIME POINTS OF CONTACT BETWEEN THE LUNAR RACE AND HUMANS.
HUMANS GOT ALONG WITH US QUITE FAMOUSLY THEN. SOME EVEN CALLING US GODS, SPIRITS, WHAT HAVE YOU...
A, HA, HA, HA
OH MY...HE SWALLOWED IT?!


NOZOMU!
HEY!! MAHIRU!! OVER HERE!!
CAN YOU SENSE IT? THE TEARDROP OF THE MOON? IT'S ON THAT TROPHY RIGHT THERE...OVER IN THE CENTER TENT.
CENTRAL PLAZA
中央広場
Central Plaza
YEAH...I CAN SEE IT GLOWING A BIT...JUST FAINTLY THOUGH...
ALL RIGHT!
PERFORM

HUH ?
HERE SHE COMES NOW, INSPECTOR
OUR DEAR, LITTLE MEDIUM, ABLE TO PINPOINT THE EXACT LOCATION AND TIME OF THE BANDITS' NEXT TARGET
CREAK
CREAK
CREAK
BATAN
LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TWO. THIS IS KEIKO HIMURA, INSPECTOR
WOW! A GIRL THAT CUTE IS A MEDIUM?
WELL, WHOOP-DEE-DOO, HERE I AM, AS PER YOUR SORRY ASS REQUEST
AND, JUST SO WE'RE CLEAR ON THINGS, I REALLY DON'T WANT TO BE HERE RIGHT NOW. OR EVER AGAIN FOR THAT MATTER
SO CONSIDER THIS THE LAST TIME I EVER HELP YOU OUT
PAN!

HMM? HIMURA?
OH YEAH?
REALLY? I NEVER HEARD THAT BEFORE
ALTHOUGH, IF SHE IS, SHE SURE DOESN'T LOOK TOO HAPPY ABOUT IT
OOO I WONDER IF SHE'S ON A DATE OR SOMETHING.
LET'S JUST SAY WE HAVE SPECIAL SKILLS, OKAY? VERY SPECIAL SKILLS

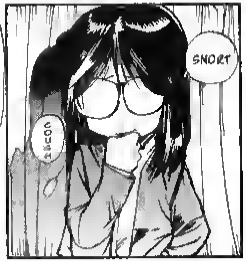
CHAPEL-YOU
YES, SIRREE
YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES THE MORE THE MERRIER, HUH?
OOH, ARE YOU GUYS IN-FIGHTING? NICE! COME ON NOW, DON'T HOLD BACK NOW
NOW, I DON'T MIND THAT THEY WANT TO DO THIS GO AHEAD, BE MY GUEST, YOU KNOW? BUT THERE'S NO WAY ON GOD'S GREEN EARTH THAT I'M BABYSITTING GOT IT?
LOOK HERE, YOUKEI, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT I'M SURE AS HELL NOT A BABYSITTER
KUSAKABE!! WHERE ARE YOU GOING, SIR?
HMMPM
YOU'LL PROVE HIM WRONG, WON'T YOU? KEIKO?
GEEEAT, THAT ASS IS TOTALLY DISMISSING US AS FREAKIN' CHILDREN
とぼとぼ
ざわざわ

CLINK
THE SAMURAI DOG READIES HIS BLADE
SWORD!!
A SWORD JUST LIKE THIS!
YOU MAY NOT BE ABLE TO SEE IT, BUT IN MY HANDS RESTS A JAPANESE SWORD
SENSES THE SAMURAI'S PRESENCE
MEANWHILE THE NINJA
TAKE MY SHURIKEN!! WSSH, WSSH, WSSHH!!
AHH, SAMURAI DOG!! SO, THERE YOU ARE, WAITING FOR ME NO DOUBT!
WHAT?! WHAT'S THAT BETWEEN YOUR LEGS?
HOW DARE YOU USE YOUR PRIVATE PARTS TO DEFLECT MY SHURIKEN!! YOU DAMNED PERVERT!!
TAIL!!
EAT SHIT, GEEK YOU'RE THE PERVERT!! THAT'S JUST MY TAIL!!
BUT THE SAMURAI DOG EASILY DEFLECTS THE SHURIKEN WITH HIS BLADE
ARF!! CLINK
ARF!! CLINK
ALL A SUDDEN, SOMETHING EMERGES FROM BETWEEN HIS LEGS AND--ARF!! CLINK

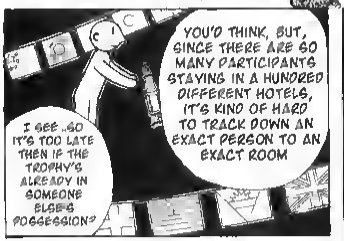
BUT...WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME, AREN'T WE?
WE MIGHT AS WELL JUST STEAL IT RIGHT NOW, THEN WHILE IT'S OUT ON DISPLAY

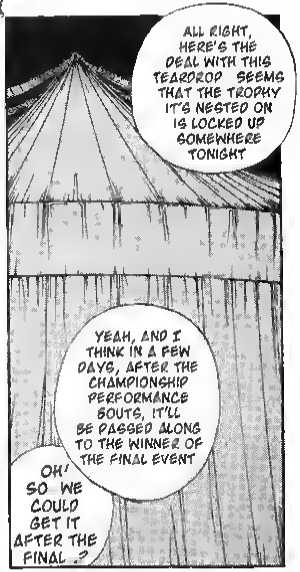
WHADDYA THINK ABOUT THIS, GUYS?
???
UH, HUH, MMM, YES! I GOT IT! I JUST THOUGHT OF THE PERFECT PLAN

WOW, HE EVEN GOT A CHUCKLE OUT OF MISOKA
WELL WHADDYA KNOW WAY TO GO, AKIRA. HE'S GOT A TON OF PEOPLE WATCHING HIM
IF THERE'S ONE THING ABOUT AKIRA, HE'S A DARN GOOD PERFORMER


SNORT
COUGH

MAHIRU!!
HEEYYY!!


YOU'D THINK, BUT, SINCE THERE ARE SO MANY PARTICIPANTS STAYING IN A HUNDRED DIFFERENT HOTELS, IT'S KIND OF HARD TO TRACK DOWN AN EXACT PERSON TO AN EXACT ROOM
I SEE...SO IT'S TOO LATE THEN IF THE TROPHY'S ALREADY IN SOMEONE ELSE'S POSSESSION?


ALL RIGHT, HERE'S THE DEAL WITH THIS TEAROOM? SEEMS THAT THE TROPHY IT'S NESTED ON IS LOCKED UP SOMEWHERE TONIGHT
YEAH, AND I THINK IN A FEW DAYS, AFTER THE CHAMPIONSHIP PERFORMANCE BOUTS, IT'LL BE PASSED ALONG TO THE WINNER OF THE FINAL EVENT
OH! SO WE COULD GET IT AFTER THE FINAL..?

OH YEAH, SURE LET'S JUST GO ENTER IT'LL SOLVE ALL OUR PROBLEMS NOT!! WHAT THE HELL'S WRONG WITH YOU, DUMB ASS?
IT'S EVEN WORSE IF IT GOES TO A FOREIGN COUNTRY RIGHT? SO WHAT IF I JUST GO WIN THE FINALS AND NAB IT THAT WAY

ALMOST TIME, EH?
NOZOMU... WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO? ALL DRESSED UP LIKE THAT?
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, STEP RIGHT UP!!
AND FEAST YOUR EYES ON A RARE SPECIMEN THAT'S RIGHT FOLKS, A WEREWOLF, A REAL GENUINE JAPANESE WEREWOLF!
DON'T YOU WORRY YOUR SWEET NOGGIN' JUST LEAVE THIS UP TO US. NOW, GO SEE A EYECANDEE WOULD YOU?
HUH?
NOW, WHETHER YOU BELIEVE THAT OR NOT, I'LL LEAVE UP TO YOU, BUT...
AKIRA!
MAYOR CLEARLY FOLKS IS YOU'LL MISS HIS INCREDIBLE STRENGTH!
EVERYONE'S STARING AT US!
わい
わい
わい
わい

THE CENTRAL PLAZA!!
I... I SEE A A STAGE IN THIS... CLEARING...
...A WHITE DOG SPIRIT... WILL APPEAR SOON...TO A CLEARING TO...THE E...EAST...
I SEE IT.
ACTUALLY, NISHINO I WAS HOPING YOU COULD STAY HERE.
I'D LIKE YOU TO ACT AS WITNESS TO OUR PROCEDURE. THAT'LL WORK BETTER I BELIEVE.
OH MAN, I BETTER GO TELL KUSAKABE QUICK!
KEIKO CONTINUE.
WE NEED MORE DETAILS IF YOU WOULD.

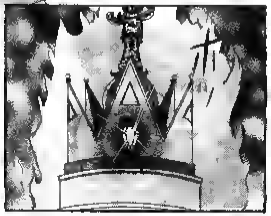
CLINK
MY NAME ISN'T KING, DAMN IT!!
OKAY THEN, KING, TIME FOR YOUR TRANS-FORMATION!! GO FETCH THAT BONE!!
ALL RIGHT, AKIRA YOU READY?
OKAY!
GO ON, MAKIRU TOSS IT!
AND YOU, LITTLE LADY, IF YOU COULD JUST TOSS THIS LITTLE THING!
THE LITTLE THING
WHOOSH

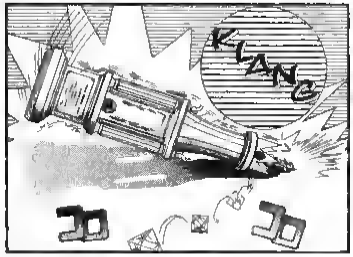
LET'S GO MAN!
HEY, DID YOU HEAR THAT? MUST BE SOMETHING AWESOME GOING ON OVER THERE

I WONDER HOW THEY DID THAT?! THAT GUY WENT FROM BEING JUST A GUY TO A WEREWOLF IN LIKE TWO SECONDS!!
HOLY CRAP?! DID YOU SEE THAT? IT WAS A WEREWOLF!
LET'S GO CHECK IT OUT!!

LET'S JUST HOPE NOTHING BAD COMES OF THIS
DAMN IT, THEY WENT TOO FAR

I'LL GO FETCH THE FIRE EXTIN-GUISHER!
I- I DON'T KNOW! BUT ALL A SUDDEN IT BURST INTO FLAMES!! OW! TOO HOT!

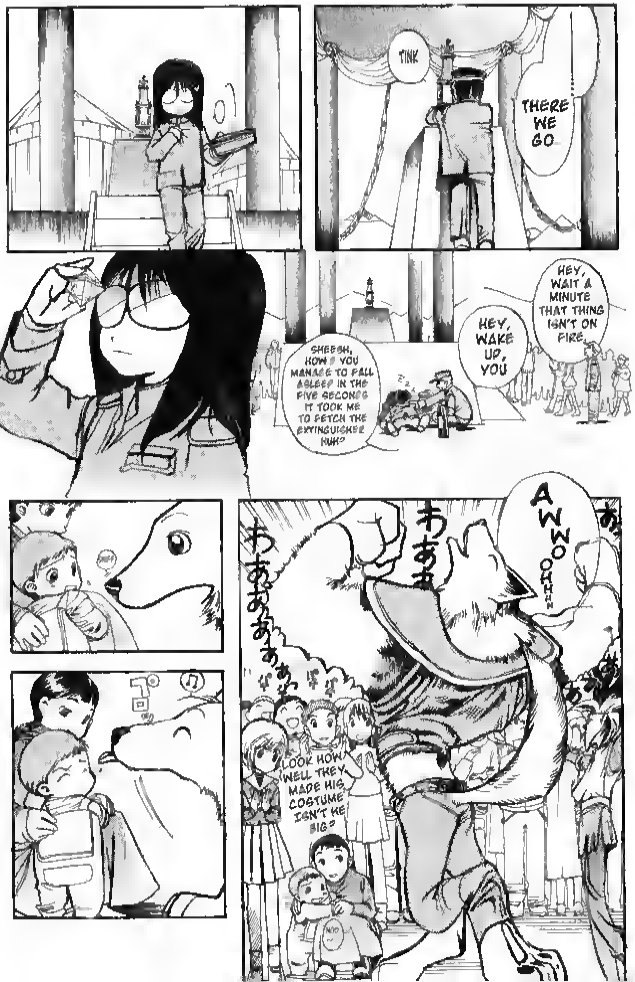



KLANG

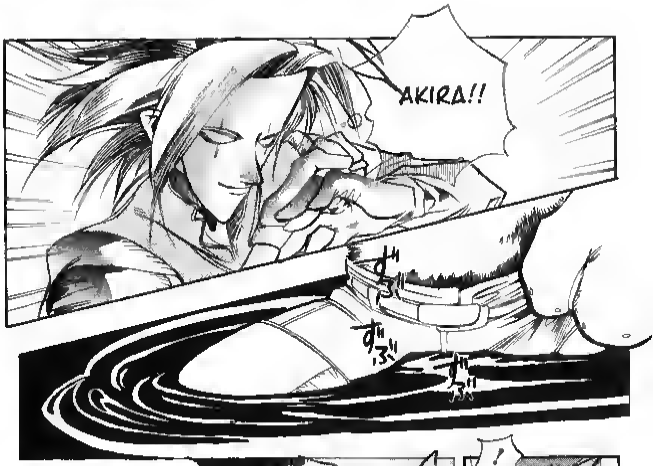
WHOA!! HOT, HOT, HOT! THAT'S NO GOOD!
WHAT'S THE MATTER?

GRAB
DANG, OVERKILL MUCH?!

THANK YOU FOR WATCHING!! GOOO NIGHT!
ARF!!
ALL RIGHT, AKIRA LET'S GET OUTTA HERE
OOH, THE SIGNAL TO PULL OUT
WAH!!
!!


TINK
THERE WE GO
SHEESH, HOW'D YOU MANAGE TO FALL ASLEEP IN THE FIVE SECONDS IT TOOK ME TO FETCH THE EXTINGUISHER HUH?
HEY, WAKE UP, YOU
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE THAT THING ISN'T ON FIRE.
AWWOOOH!!
LOOK HOW WELL THEY MADE HIS COSTUME ISN'T HE BIG?

AAAHHH!!
AKIRAAAAAAA!!
AKIRA!!


AKIRA!!

!!

!

Crescent Moon

Preview: Volume 3

THE BATTLE BETWEEN HUMANS AND THE LUNAR RACE ESCALATES! MAHIRU SUPPORTS THE LUNAR RACE, WHILE HER PSYCHIC CLASSMATE KEIKO BACKS DAWN'S VENUS- A GROUP OF HUMANS WHOSE GOAL IS TO ANNIHILATE THE LUNAR RACE. AS THE CONFLICT DRAWS EVERYONE CLOSER INTO THE SHADOW OF THE VALLEY OF DEATH, MAHIRU REALIZES THAT THE ONLY WAY TO END THE BLOODY CONFLICT IS TO GIVE PEACE A CHANCE.